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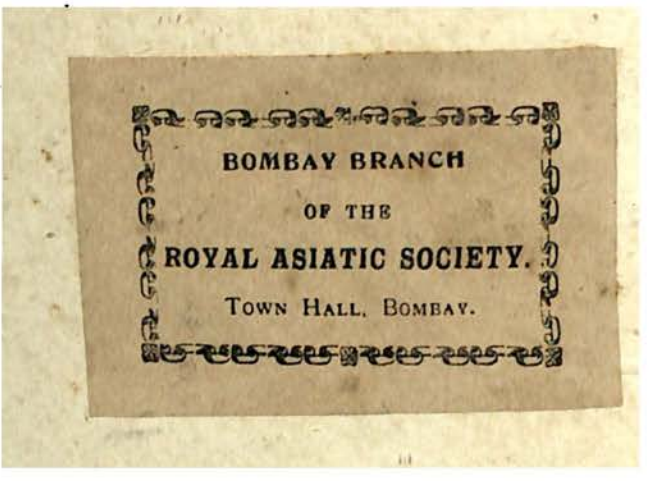

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THE PAGET PAPERS

THE

PAGET PAPERS

DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

OF THE

RIGHT HON. SIR ARTHUR PAGET, G.C.B.

1794-1807

[*WITH TWO APPENDICES 1808 & 1821–1829*]

ARRANGED AND EDITED BY HIS SON

THE RIGHT HON. SIR AUGUSTUS B. PAGET, G.C.B.

LATE HER MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA

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ac

WITH NOTES BY

MRS. J. R. GREEN

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

TWENTY-FOUR PORTRAITS

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IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL I.

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LONDON

WILLIAM HEINEMANN

1896

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BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR

My father, the Hon. Arthur Paget, subsequently the Right Hon. Sir Arthur Paget, G.C.B., was the third son of Henry (Bayly) Paget. This Henry had succeeded to the Barony of Paget on November 17, 1769, at the death of Henry, second Earl of Uxbridge and Baron Paget of Beaudesert, co. Staffordshire, and was by Patent created Earl of Uxbridge, co. of Middlesex, on May 17, 1784; married in 1767, Jane, only daughter of Dean Champagné of Clanmacnoise in Ireland; and died March 13, 1812. His wife died March 9, 1817.

Sir Arthur was born on January 15, 1771, and died July 26, 1840.

I unfortunately possess no written record of my father's earlier days, so that the materials for giving a detailed biographical sketch of that period of his life are almost entirely wanting; and, indeed, what I know of his subsequent career is gathered only from the official and private Papers which came into my possession on the death of my mother in 1870, and which, owing to my own diplomatic occupations, I have never had time to look into until my period of active service came to an end.

A great many of these Papers (I hope it may not be

thought too many) I now lay before the public. I do so because, on looking through this immense collection of correspondence (unfortunately interrupted in a good many places), it has occurred to me that, although many of the public events referred to are matters of history, with which every educated person is of course familiar, there are some which I believe are not so generally known; and I have thought, moreover, that an interest might possibly attach to the inner workings of diplomacy during that most important and momentous crisis in the affairs of Europe. I have therefore made a selection of the despatches to and from my father which have appeared to me likely to be most attractive to the general reader; but, in addition to these, other letters to and from important personages at that period will, I hope, be found not unworthy of perusal.

Before proceeding further, however, I may as well recount what I know of my father's life before he entered the diplomatic profession. It has come to me, partly through the present letters and partly as a sort of family tradition, some of it indeed having been related by my father himself in my own hearing. I only wish that I had had greater opportunities, during my own youthful days, of acquiring a fuller knowledge both of his early and his later career, and of deriving all the benefit I might have done, in times gone by, from his great experience, ability, and knowledge of the world.

He was educated at Westminster School, as was also my uncle Sir Edward. Those were rough days for boys at public schools, the system of tyranny and bullying of the small boys by their seniors having been frequently revolting and atrocious. I remember my father mentioning that his brother Edward (of whom a biographical notice will be found further on) had undergone such a thrashing from one of the bigger boys, that it was for some time doubtful whether he would recover from the injuries inflicted upon him, but that he absolutely

refused, either at the time or ever afterwards, to reveal the name of his assailant.

How many years Sir Arthur remained at Westminster I am unable to say, as I do not know the date when he entered it, but I know that on leaving that school he proceeded to Christ Church College, Oxford, where he matriculated in June 1787, and was admitted a student on December 24 of that year; that he there formed a great friendship with Dr. Cyril Jackson, the dean of that college, which friendship he was fortunate enough to preserve for many years after he had left the University.

In the year 1790, my father, being then nineteen years old, went abroad, with the view of studying foreign politics upon the Continent, of learning foreign languages, and of otherwise preparing himself for entry into the diplomatic profession, in which, however, notwithstanding his success, he seems never to have been quite happy, owing to his dislike of living out of England, to which he was always pining to return. The particulars of what he did before entering diplomacy I gain principally from letters addressed to him by a correspondent who only signs his Christian name "Henry," but who, from certain phrases and allusions in some of his letters, it is evident must have been Lord Henry Fitzgerald, the brother of Lord Robert Fitzgerald, who was secretary of the Embassy in Paris at that time, and afterwards became Minister at Copenhagen.

Lord Henry was undoubtedly a much older man than my father, for whom, however, he seems to have had the warmest attachment. His letters, besides containing much social gossip, are full of good and fatherly advice. As a specimen of this correspondence, I may cite the following from a letter dated May 1791, and marked No. 4.

"To complete my gossip I may tell you that there has

been a dreadful fracas in the Lottery Alley among some Ladies of very high rank. I suppose you must have heard of it, but it is possible you may not have heard, as scarce anybody but myself would write such stuff—therefore a repetition is better than being left in ignorance. They do say that a certain set of Ladies, the Duchess of Devonshire at their head, have been gambling in the Alley among all the Brokers: They do say that a lame Duck was seen waddling out of said Alley, and they do say that said lame Duck was the Duchess. It made a most tremendous piece of work, but all's hush'd up and quiet again. Damage they say among them 60,000." Again in the same letter: "We have just heard, in a letter from my Brother Robert, all has been confusion again at Paris, owing to the Folly of the poor King, who took the Sacrament Easter Sunday from one of the non-juring Clergy,—all the Heads of which he has harbored and protected in his Palace. This instantly gave a general alarm, and the cry was that the King had deserted his People, *et qu'il était devenu aristocrate*, and that his conduct was insincere. In such a ferment was all Paris that the King attempted to go to St. Cloud, and was actually in the carriage with the Queen. He was prevented by the Mob, and sat in the carriage two hours determined not to get out. Upon this La Fayette told him he could not answer for anything unless the King ordered him with the Militia of Paris to fire. This the King would not hear of, and La Fayette was told by his Soldiers in plain terms that they would not obey any such order, supposing it had been given. The Queen attempted to harangue the Mob, when she was saluted with '*Tais-toi, coquine, ce n'est pas à toi de donner des ordres ici.*' La Fayette enrag'd, resign'd, and the King was obliged to give up the journey. The next day he went to the Assembly, made a fine speech, but has not quite regained the confidence hitherto reposed in Him, of His being a Friend of the Revolution,—though He has dis-

carded all the nonjuring Clergymen and aristocratic Officers of His household. He is now completely in the hands of the Democrats and National Guards. This transaction, foolish on his part, and really outrageous on the part of the people, has cost the Royal Family, my Brother Robert says, many Tears and dreadful moments of anxiety."

As a sample of the very sound advice administered from the same quarter, I may quote the following sentence, strongly urging my father when he enters diplomacy not to lose sight of his connection with his own Court and country,—a course which cannot be too strongly recommended to diplomatists of the present and all future generations. This sentence occurs in a letter dated June 19, 1791, addressed to Dresden:

"I am very glad," he says, "that you have made up your mind to your Profession. You are sure, my Friend, to succeed with even less pains than you mean to take. I do not mean by this to advise relaxation in your career,—for *success* must follow your endeavours,—which is better than mere succeeding. I am not tho' of the Idea that a person destined to figure in foreign Courts should be ignorant of his own. I think you should make such visits to England as would enable you to read a good deal in the different Secretaries' offices, where Treaties, negotiations, foreign correspondence, &c. are a study worthy your notice. This I tell you as my Brother Robert practised it!"

The author of these letters, Lord Henry Fitzgerald, married in 1792 Miss Boyle, a lady, as he informs my father, with £5000 a year. After this, although the correspondence was not discontinued, the letters became less frequent.

My father remained abroad, in an independent position, during 1790 and a part of 1791, passing his time in Germany, and principally, as I gather from the correspondence addressed to him, at Dresden and Leipzig. Whether he became proficient in the German language I am unable to say,—but that he acquired a thorough familiarity with French is, I think, abundantly proved by the perusal of his diplomatic notes to the various Foreign Ministers with whom he had to deal.

Late in 1791, or early in 1792, he was temporarily employed in Mr. Ewart's Mission at Berlin, but towards the close of the latter year he was appointed Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg.

Mr. Whitworth, shortly to become Sir Charles,* K.B., and eventually Lord Whitworth (who, as will be readily remembered, was so violently apostrophised by Napoleon in 1803 with reference to the Treaty of Amiens) was at that time His Britannic Majesty's Minister at the Court of the Empress Catherine.

From St. Petersburg Mr. Paget was transferred in 1794 as Secretary of Legation to Berlin, where he acted for several months as *Chargé d'affaires* during the absence, under circumstances which will be described later on, of Lord Malmesbury, who was on a temporary Mission to that Court. Mr. Paget was then twenty-three years old. I should like to call especial attention to a letter which he wrote from Berlin (September 21, 1794) to Lord St. Helens, then Ambassador at the Hague, begging him to use all his influence to prevent the marriage between the Prince of Wales and Princess Caroline of Brunswick, a letter which, written as it was by a young diplomatist of twenty-three years of age, at his first independent post, appears to me to evince an amount of foresight, ability, and perspicacity, which does the utmost credit to its author, and the results which followed upon this ill-

* At this time, and when my father received the same honour, there was only one class—the Grand Cross—of the Order of the Bath.

assorted alliance proved that the predictions contained in this letter were only too truly prophetic. Lord St. Helens' answer (October 3) follows almost immediately after, in the correspondence of this year, and is very characteristic of the wily old diplomatist.

At Berlin he remained till the beginning of the year 1795, when he proceeded to England, where he remained till 1798, and entered Parliament as Member for Anglesey. In 1798 he was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Elector of Bavaria and the Diet of Ratisbon. There is indeed a letter from Lord Grenville, dated July 20, 1796, offering him the Secretaryship of Embassy at Madrid. This he certainly declined, although I have found no record of his having done so, but there is collateral evidence, as will be seen in the sequel, to show that he did not leave England again until he went to Munich, where he remained until 1800, when he was appointed to the Mission at Palermo.

It will be seen, however, from the letters from Lord Grenville, which are given under the heading of 1799, that Mr. Paget was appointed Minister to Berlin as successor to Mr. T. Grenville, but it is clear from the further letters from Lord Grenville that he never proceeded to this post, but went to Palermo as above stated. He resided there until May 1801, when he went to Vienna as successor to Lord Minto, where he remained until 1806. He was made a Privy Councillor in January 1804, and received the Order of the Bath in June of the same year.

After leaving Vienna, Sir A. Paget was sent in 1807 on a Special Embassy to the Dardanelles, to induce the Turks to break off their alliance with Napoleon and to conclude peace with Great Britain and Russia. Count Pozzo di Borgo was sent on a similar Mission on the part of Russia, and the two negotiators met off the Island of Tenedos for the purpose of concerting joint representa-

tions and measures. Some of the notes exchanged between them will be found amongst the documents now produced. In the meantime, the Treaty of Tilsit had been concluded, Russia had joined Napoleon's Continental System against Great Britain, had, therefore, become an enemy instead of a friend, and the joint negotiations of course were broken off. Sir A. Paget, however, waited for several weeks off Tenedos in the vain endeavour of inducing the Porte to name a Plenipotentiary to treat with him alone, and it will be seen that the notes which he addressed to the Reis Effendi for this purpose were not wanting in energy.

With this Embassy Sir A. Paget's diplomatic career came to an end. He married, in 1809, Lady Augusta Fane, second daughter of John, tenth Earl of Westmoreland, and passed the remainder of his life, with the exception of the two last years when he had removed to London, in the country, engaged, during the earlier period of his retirement, in agricultural pursuits; but later on chiefly in yachting, having bought some land and built a house called Hamble Cliff on the banks of the Southampton Water, near Netley Abbey. A more ill-chosen spot for yachting purposes, if I may say so, with all the affection, respect, and veneration I cherish for my father's memory, could hadly have been selected. For at low water, especially during spring tides, it was quite impossible either to get on board of or to disembark from the yacht, by reason of the mud which extended for about a quarter of a mile from the shore to the water's edge. To remedy this inconvenience, "a Hard" had to be made, by sinking faggots and shingle as a foundation, after the fashion of the railway over Chat Moss between Liverpool and Manchester, and the sinking of these faggots and shingle, with the labour which was necessary for this operation, entailed, of course, the *sinking* of a considerable amount of that commodity by which faggots, shingle and labour are purchased.

It has, I must own, sometimes occurred to me that instead of incurring all this expenditure in the creation of Hamble Cliff, and making the Hard aforesaid, it would have been much better, at all events in the interest of his family, if my father had invested the money in becoming an original shareholder, as was proposed to him, in the then London and Southampton Railway. But he, like a good many others of the old school in those days, had no belief in and rather pooh-poohed the idea of railways; he had, at all events, no faith in their soundness as an investment. Moreover, accustomed as Sir Arthur had been, from his earliest youth, to the almost unlimited liberality of his father, Lord Uxbridge, considerations about investments, or at all events of economy, never seem to have stood in the way of the realisation of any pet project he may have entertained, and I have been astounded in looking through these Papers at the accounts which I have found of his expenditure abroad. I remember to have heard that at Vienna he had no less than thirty carriages, and a proportionate number of horses in his stable, together with a household mounted on an equal scale of extravagance, so that he acquired the soubriquet of "The Emperor."

Sir A. Paget was certainly not one of those Englishmen who could be included in the category referred to by the first Earl of Malmesbury, when he said, and it cannot be too often repeated:

"And here I will make an assertion, grounded on experience and conviction, and which may be applied as a never-failing test, that an Englishman who, after a long absence from England, returns to it with feelings and sentiments partial to other countries, and adverse to his own, has no *real mind*, is without the powers of discernment and plain easy comparison, and has no title to enjoy the superior moral, political and local advan-

tages to which he is born, but of which he is insensible and unworthy."*

No one, I venture to assert, and I think it will be proved by his diplomatic correspondence, was ever more completely imbued with the true spirit of an Englishman, or evinced that spirit more thoroughly in his dealings with foreign statesmen; no one could possibly have been a stouter champion of the honour, dignity, and interests of his Sovereign and country, while no one was ever more earnestly impressed with the superiority of British institutions over those of any other nation, or more thoroughly appreciated the privilege of having been born an Englishman, and the delights, enjoyments, and charms of an English country home, than did Sir A. Paget, when he retired into private life, which none of the flattering offers subsequently made to him, of further employment in the public service, could induce him to abandon.

During the period of his service abroad—viz., from 1792 to 1795, and again from 1798 to 1807—my father, in occupation of the important diplomatic posts above referred to, was—as may be naturally supposed—brought into contact with some of the most eminent statesmen and diplomatists of his day, as well as with other notable personages both at home and abroad. Amongst others with whom correspondence will be found in the following pages are various members of the Royal Family, especially the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV.), who appears to have entertained a sincere affection for my father; the Queen of Naples, Louis XVIII., Lords Grenville, Harrowby, Hawkesbury, Malmesbury, St. Helens, Wellesley, Whitworth and G. Leveson Gower (afterwards first Earl Granville), Admirals Lords Keith and Collingwood, Mr. Fox, Mr. Canning, Sir Charles Arbuthnot, Sir John Warren, General Sir John Moore, Sir R. Abercrombie, Sir Morton Eden, Mr. Jackson, Counts

* See Introductory Memoir to "Diaries and Correspondence of the First Earl of Malmesbury."

Haugwitz, Cobentzl, General Sir John Acton, Counts Stadion, Pozzo di Borgo, &c. Wherever he went he appears to have enjoyed an immense and universal popularity, *not confined to one sex alone*, and to have acquired the esteem, respect, friendship and even affection, as will be abundantly evident from a perusal of the letters addressed to him, of every one with whom he was brought into contact, whether in official or private life.

I am well aware of the many imperfections which may be found in the manner in which I have executed the task which I have undertaken. It has been one of no slight toil, labour and anxiety—toil and labour from the necessity of having to read through an enormous mass of Papers, some of them without the smallest interest, but which could not be discarded without examination; and anxiety to select those documents which appeared most likely to have some attraction for the general reader.

Another difficulty I have had to contend with, and which made me hesitate at different times as to whether I would not give up the undertaking altogether, has been that which has arisen from the many gaps I have found in the official correspondence, and which I could not supply without having recourse to other sources of information. To have done this, however, would have entirely changed the nature of the work which I had taken in hand, which was, *not to write history*, but through their correspondence to give some insight into the characters of some of those who were engaged in making it at a very important moment in the world's affairs, and also to throw some light upon the manner in which diplomatic relations were conducted at that time, while not neglecting social and other matters which might give a more varied and general interest to the publication; and for these reasons I determined to go on with my design.

While doing so, I am bound to add that, besides the

toil and anxiety referred to, it has been to me "a labour of love," for I could not read through these Papers without being struck by the brilliant, sterling, and—if I may use the expression—fascinating qualities which adorned my father's character, with which I was only imperfectly acquainted previously.

Any one who reads these Papers will, I think, be struck by the enormous responsibility which diplomatists in those days were called upon to take upon themselves, and of which unquestionably a more than average share fell to the lot of Sir Arthur Paget.

Before concluding this biographical memoir, I think it right to give some account of the careers of my father's brothers, of whom he had five, who all rendered good service to the State, and two of whom will always hold a distinguished position in the history of their country.

1st.—Henry William, K.G., G.C.B., and Knight of several other Orders, born May 17, 1768, succeeded to the Earldom of Uxbridge on the death of his father in 1812. After serving in the campaign in Flanders and Holland, and in the Peninsular War (where in 1808 he commanded a mixed corps of infantry and cavalry in the army under General Blake), and having gained for himself in all these positions great distinction and honourable mention, he was subsequently created Marquis of Anglesey for his services at Waterloo, where he commanded the British, Hanoverian, and Belgian cavalry, and lost a leg in the last charge. He was twice Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, from which high post he was recalled in 1829 by the Duke of Wellington, in consequence of disagreement on the Catholic Emancipation question, on which he took a more liberal and conciliatory view than the Government. Letters on this subject from Lord Anglesey to my father and his brother Sir Charles will be found at the conclusion of the Papers now presented. On Earl Grey succeeding the Duke of Wellington as Prime Minister in

1830, Lord Anglesey was again appointed to the Vice-Royalty in Ireland, which he retained till 1833. His Lordship was for a great many years Master-General of the Ordnance, and died April 29, 1854.

2nd.—William, Captain R.N., born 1769 or 70, and died 1794. A letter of his to his father, Lord Uxbridge, giving an account of his capture of a French frigate, is included in the correspondence of 1794.

3rd.—General the Hon. Sir Edward, G.C.B., born November 3, 1775. After serving in the campaign in Flanders and Holland in 1794, he went with his regiment to Gibraltar and was present at the capture of Minorca, under Sir Charles Stuart, in 1798. In the campaign in Egypt, under Sir Ralph Abercrombie and Lord Hutchinson, he commanded the 28th Regiment of infantry and was slightly wounded in the battle before Alexandria, where Sir R. Abercrombie received his mortal wound. He afterwards served in the Peninsular War; first under Sir John Moore, being present in the retreat to and the battle of Corunna, for which he received a gold medal, and later with the army under Sir Arthur Wellesley, when he commanded a division of infantry at the capture of Oporto in 1809, and lost an arm in the passage of the Douro. He was subsequently second in command to Lord Wellington, and was taken prisoner in the retreat of the army from Burgos in 1812. So high was the estimation in which this officer was held by Lord Wellington that he offered the French Marshal any number of French Generals who had been taken prisoners by the English, if he would give him back Lieutenant-General Paget; but Soult declined the proposal and sent General Paget to Paris, where he remained, I believe on parole, until the arrival of the Allied Armies in 1814.

In 1821, Sir Edward Paget was appointed Governor of Ceylon, and how highly the great qualities which he had displayed during his official residence in that island, "the

union of the firmest conduct with the kindest manners, of unremitting attention to the public interests with a paternal consideration for every individual," was appreciated by the British community; and how deep was their regret at his departure in 1822, when he was appointed Commander-in-Chief in India, was made manifest in the address (from which the above quotation is taken) which was presented to Sir Edward on the eve of his departure for his new destination.

It was Sir Edward Paget who put down the Mutiny of the Sepoys which was so memorable at the time, and it was he who conducted the whole of the Burmese War, during which he was present almost to the end, Lord Cathcart being then Governor-General of India. On his return from India he was appointed Governor to the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, and was afterwards Governor of Chelsea Hospital, where he died on May 13, 1849. Frequent mention of "*Your Brother*" (meaning Edward) is made in the letters from Lord Keith, Sir John Moore, and others of Mr. Paget's correspondents during his residence as Minister at Palermo.

4th.—The Hon. Sir Charles, G.C.B., Vice-Admiral in the R.N. He was engaged in several important naval operations during the war with France. He commanded the *Cambrian* frigate at the bombardment of Copenhagen, and the capture of the Danish fleet in 1807, and was sent home with the duplicates of the despatches announcing the victory. It is related of him, though I am unable to confirm it, and there is no record of it at the Admiralty, that when in command of the *Endymion* frigate, he saved a French line-of-battle ship from shipwreck, instead of sinking her, by drifting a cable across her bows, of which she availed herself, and was thus enabled to haul off from a lee shore on which she must inevitably have perished, an incident which has since been commemorated in a beautiful poem by Sir E. Arnold; and there is a picture representing the scene by

the marine painter Shelsky, in the Senior United Service Club. Sir Charles died at Bermuda on June 27, 1839, while in command of the squadron on the West India Station.

5th.—The Hon. Berkeley Thomas, born January 2, 1780. Entered the army and attained the rank of major in the 7th Hussars. He served in the Peninsular War in 1808. He was A.D.C. to H.R.H. the Duke of York, and succeeded his brother Sir Arthur as M.P. for Anglesey; was later on appointed a Commissioner of Excise, which office he held until he died on October 26, 1842.

Several letters from these brothers, from 1803 to 1808 inclusive, referring to the events of this most momentous period, and to the circumstances in which they found themselves placed, are included in the correspondence of the respective years in which they were written. Those from Lord Paget, subsequently created Marquis of Anglesey, as already stated, and especially those which he wrote from Spain in 1808, appear to me to be particularly deserving of notice.

In addition to these, a few letters from Lord and Lady Uxbridge, commenting upon current events of the same period and in reference to other matters, are likewise inserted in the correspondence of the years to which they belong, where will also be found several letters from Sir A. Paget to Lord and Lady Uxbridge, for which I am indebted to the present Marquis of Anglesey, who has had the kindness to cause them to be sent to me from the collection of Family Papers at Beaudesert.

Since writing the above, I have found the gaps in the correspondence addressed by Sir A. Paget to the Foreign Office in the year 1805 to be so serious that, contrary to my original intention, I have had recourse to the Archives of the Record Office, access to which has kindly been permitted to me, in order to fill up the vacuum which

would otherwise have occurred in the correspondence of this most important year.

The two appendices contain letters from Lord Paget while employed in the Peninsula campaign in 1808, and further letters from the same, as Marquis of Anglesey, K.G., while Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland in 1821–1829.

In conclusion I wish to record my deep sense of gratitude to Mrs. J. R. Green, the distinguished and learned Historian of "Town Life in the Fifteenth Century," to whom these Papers have been submitted, for the attention and care she has so kindly bestowed upon them, as well as for her great assistance and useful suggestions in finally preparing them for publication; and to this Lady I am likewise indebted for many most valuable notes elucidating points which I had omitted to notice.

A. P.

February 1896.

BEAUDESERT HOUSE

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THE PAGET PAPERS

BERLIN

JULY 1794 TO JANUARY 1795

ÆTAT. 23

MR. PAGET having been, as stated in the biographical notice, temporarily attached to Mr. Ewart's Mission at Berlin at the end of 1791 or beginning of 1792, was towards the close of the latter year appointed as Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg, and at once proceeded to that post, where he remained until the spring of 1794.

While serving at St. Petersburg, he was fortunate enough to acquire the warm friendship of his chief, Sir Charles Whitworth, and to preserve this friendship, as well as the high opinion of Sir Charles as to his diplomatic capacity and abilities, as is evinced in the numerous letters addressed to him by that distinguished diplomatist.

Being in a subordinate position, Mr. Paget was, of course, engaged in no official correspondence on his own account during his first residence at Berlin or at St. Petersburg.

Towards the end of 1793, the Prussians began to show symptoms of an inclination to back out of their alliance with Great Britain and the other Powers against France, and Lord Malmesbury was despatched on a special mission to Berlin with a view to induce His Prussian Majesty to fulfil his engagements. It at once became evident that the object of Prussia was to obtain pecuniary assistance, without which, the King frankly informed

Lord Malmesbury, he could not continue the war. As a consequence of Lord Malmesbury's negotiations with the King and his Minister for Foreign Affairs, Count Haugwitz, a project of convention was eventually sent out by Lord Grenville, the then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, according to which a sum of £2,000,000, to be contributed by Great Britain, Austria, and Holland, was to be advanced to Prussia (though not in equal portions, as Great Britain undertook, of course, to supply the largest amount), on condition of her furnishing 100,000 Prussian troops to act in conjunction with the troops of the Allies, an English army under the Duke of York being at the time engaged in operations in Flanders.

After a good deal of haggling on the part of the King of Prussia and his Ministers, this convention was ultimately agreed to in its main features; but Austria absolutely declined to contribute her share.

Upon this Lord Malmesbury took upon himself to propose another treaty which, together with a treaty between His Britannic Majesty and the States-General, was signed on April 19, 1794, at the Hague, whither, on the suggestion of the King of Prussia, Lord Malmesbury, followed by Count Haugwitz, had proceeded to complete the negotiations.

By these treaties, His Prussian Majesty bound himself to furnish an army of 62,000 men, under a Prussian Commander-in-Chief, to be subsidised by England and Holland; a military convention between the three countries was to determine where the army could be employed most usefully; and the maritime Powers were to pay His Prussian Majesty £50,000 per month to the end of the year, £300,000 to put his army in motion, and £100,000 on its return home.

"Upon the conclusion of these treaties, Lord Grenville ordered Lord Malmesbury to England to give the Government 'general information' respecting the best means of employing the Prussian troops in concert with those of Austria and the English Army under the Duke of York. It appears that this ill-judged recall contributed much to the success with which the French party, taking advantage of treachery and national prejudices, contrived through Lucchesini to stultify the treaty. It

is difficult to know whether Haugwitz was really honest or not (Lord Malmesbury thought him so at the time), but it is clear that when once freed from the influence Lord Malmesbury had gained over him, he shunned meeting him again, and joined in the disgraceful conduct adopted by the Prussian Court at the instigation of Lucchesini." *

Lord Malmesbury got to London on May 6, and again left it for the Hague on the 24th of the same month with instructions to accelerate the march of the Prussian Army towards Liège and Hanover, and on no account to allow it to be employed more to the left than the country of the Meuse. He did not return to Berlin, but proceeded to Maestricht, Menz, Mayence, Frankfort and other places, in order to be in touch with the headquarters of the Prussian Army, under the command of Marshal Möllendorf, then on the Rhine, and insist, in compliance with the stipulation of the recent Treaty, upon the employment of this army in the Low Countries —an obligation which it was sought by every pretext, amongst others the alleged non-payment of the subsidy, to evade.

When Lord Malmesbury left Berlin on March 23, Mr. Rose, who was then Secretary of Legation, was left in charge of the Mission. He was succeeded, in the month of July, by the Hon. A. Paget, who had come from England by way of the Hague, where he had seen Lord St. Helens, Ambassador to the United Provinces.

Mr. Paget's principal duty was to endeavour to support the action of his chief, Lord Malmesbury, who, as before said, was at the Prussian headquarters, to thwart the designs of the French party headed by Lucchesini and Bischoffswerder, and to keep the Prussian Government faithful to its engagements.

The King (Frederick William II.) was a man of weak and unstable character, too prone to be guided by the counsels of those who were intriguing against the cause of the Allies, and to break loose from his Treaty obligations, though Mr. Paget records the opinion that His Majesty was about the only man in his dominions who was sincere and earnest in wishing to continue the war. Count Haugwitz was the Minister for Foreign Affairs

* See Lord Malmesbury's "Diaries and Correspondence," vol. iii. p. 93.

with whom Mr. Paget had principally to deal, but there were grounds for believing that his influence was on the wane. Mr. Paget thus found himself at the outset in a position beset with difficulties, which were not a little increased by the absence of any clear and precise instructions, and by the accidental miscarriage of the subsidy the very first month of his arrival in Berlin.

I trust I may be pardoned for again recalling the fact that, at this time, he was only twenty-three years of age and at his first independent diplomatic post; and, in doing this, I think I may refer with pride to his correspondence with Lord Grenville, Lord Malmesbury, and Lord St. Helens, and to the encomiums bestowed by them upon the manner in which he acquitted himself of the duties entrusted to him.

His first despatch to Lord Grenville opens this series of Papers, and a letter from Lord St. Helens to whom he sent it under flying seal, will show the opinion entertained of it by that able and distinguished diplomatist.

Mr. Paget left Berlin for England in January 1795, but he was detained for some weeks at Embden, a Prussian port in the North Sea, whence he continued his correspondence with Lord Malmesbury. These letters, however, relate to matters of importance only at the time when they were written, and therefore, with the exception of a few short extracts, are not included in the present publication.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Mr. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE*

[No. 1.] BERLIN, *July* 12, 1794.

MY LORD,—I arrived here on Wednesday evening, having been detained four days at the Hague, and am put in possession by Mr. Rose of the Official Papers and Cyphers. He presented me yesterday to such of the

* Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Prussian Ministers as are now in Berlin, from whom I had a very favourable reception. I had this day the honour of being presented to Her Prussian Majesty, who was pleased to receive me in the most gracious and flattering manner.

. . . . . .

On Thursday morning I received a Messenger from Lord Malmesbury at Mannheim, who was also charged with a letter* for Count Haugwitz from His Lordship, which I lost no time in sending. Notwithstanding my extreme anxiety I have not been able to see that Minister upon business until this morning. I told His Excellency that I had little to observe in addition to the clear and forcible arguments used in Lord Malmesbury's letter,—but that having been so recently in Holland I had been witness of the general terror which prevailed in that country in consequence of the late alarming successes of the French in Flanders, and of the near approach of that Army to the territory of the Republic,—that the country itself, I had every reason to believe, was disunited,—that their credit was at the lowest ebb, consequently the impossibility of its raising troops was evident,—that since the retreat of the Austrians, Prussia remained the only power capable of rescuing it from the imminent danger of the present moment, and that in another point of view, not perhaps less important, the presence of the Prussian Army would, from the example of their effectual interference in the late revolution, ensure the internal tranquillity of the United Provinces. I expressed the deepest regret at the present inactivity of the Prussian Army, and the seeming want of unanimity which existed between its Chiefs. Count Haugwitz† observed that, whatever inclination Marshal Möllendorf might have for putting the troops under his command in motion, the pecuniary means had been wanting. He agreed entirely that it was the common interest of the two countries to preserve Holland, and doubted not that the Field Marshal

* This letter is published in the Malmesbury "Diaries and Correspondence," vol. iii.

† b. 1752, d. 1832. He had spent much time in Italy, and was closely allied to the G. Duke of Tuscany. Sent as Minister to Vienna, 1790. Made Minister of Foreign Affairs, 1792. Supposed to be an Illuminé, and as such first noticed by the King.

would forthwith most willingly concert such measures with Lord Malmesbury and Baron Kinckel * as would ensure the safety of that country. He spoke with much satisfaction of an intended plan for marching the Prussian troops along the country between the Meuse and the Rhine down to Wesel, and what led him to conjecture that this was to be put into execution was the Field Marshal having given orders for the removal of the French prisoners from Wesel, in order to make it a *place d'armes.*

I very much fear that Count Haugwitz's influence and favor are on the decline. He has two powerful rivals in the persons of Bischoffswerder† and Lucchesini,‡ and the uncertainty with which he spoke to me of the above-mentioned plan rather induces me to conjecture that he no longer enjoys the same degree of confidence as formerly.

According to the last letters from Poland, His Prussian Majesty was at Tarzin, 3½ German miles from Warsaw, but Kosciusko's Army 30,000 strong was between him and the town;§ if that General risks a general battle, and from the desperate position of his affairs it alone affords him a possibility of success against the Prussians, it was expected to take place on the 8th Instant. If, on the other hand, he retreats with his force unbroken to the other side of the Vistula, the Prussians will not pursue him beyond it, and though he must sacrifice Warsaw to them, he may still render it a difficult task to the Prussians to drive him from the country into which he could retire. The Austrians have entered the Palatinates of Lublin and Cholm to the number of 10 to 12,000 men under the command of Lieu-

* Prussian Minister at the Hague.

† General Bischoffswerder was influenced by the Illuminés, being imbued by them, partly for religious and partly for political reasons, with Swedenborgian and deistic ideas, and frightened by apparitions. Through him they gained great influence over the king. See despatch July 26, note.—A. P.

‡ An Italian who had been employed by Frederick the Great as *reader,* and was given political office by his successor. He was connected with Bischoffswerder, as they had married two sisters. At this time he was supposed to have been bought by the French and was always anti-English.

§ Kosciusko proclaimed the insurrection March 3. The Russian and Prussian troops were driven from Warsaw, April 17. The King of Prussia marched with 30 000 men to besiege the city on May 14. The Prussians raised the siege and retreated at the beginning of September.

tenant General d'Arnancourt, and garrisoned Scudomir. It should seem that their mistrust of the disinterestedness of their co-operators in Poland has induced them to take this effectual means to hinder their interest being overlooked, should a future partition take place,—I have, &c. (Signed) A. PAGET.

From Captain the Hon. WILLIAM PAGET *to the* Earl of UXBRIDGE.

ROMNEY, SMYRNA, *July* 1, 1794.

MY DEAR FATHER,—I am sure it will give you great pleasure to hear that I have just captured one of the finest French Frigates that ever was built, & when I relate every circumstance, which I will do if I have time (I know you will say I am always in a hurry when I write to you, but the fact really is, that I am this instant arrived, that the post is just going out, and that it does not go out again for 3 weeks), you will see how very fortunate I have been thro'out the whole business. I think I told you in my letter from Naples that I had returned again to the Romney, and that I was going to Smyrna in company with the Inconstant, Leda, Tartar, and a convoy.

A Fortnight after we sailed we arrived in the Archipelago, where we spoke a vessel who informed us that the day before she had seen the French Commodore with three Merchantmen on his passage to Smyrna & that he did not think he was many miles ahead of us, upon which Cap^tn. Montgomery made the signal for all captains, and told us that he intended leaving the Romney with the convoy, as she was the largest Ship, and it was necessary they should be well protected as there were several cruisers in the Archipelago, that he should make sail after the French Commodore to a certain distance with the Inconstant, Leda, and Tartar, and that I was to follow as fast as I could to the passage between the Islands of Tino & Miconi, where I was to wait his return. Accordingly away they went and, fortunately for me, past the Frenchman in the night without seeing him. The next morning I arrived in the above-mentioned passage, and to my great joy and surprise discovered him

at anchor with the three merchantmen in Miconi Road. I immediately made the signal for the Convoy to make the best of their way towards the Inconstant, &c., that had just hove in sight from our mast head, hauled my wind, and anchored within about a cable's length of the Commodore, who I sent to desire would strike his colours and surrender to His British Majesty or that I should fire into him. He sent me for answer that he was well acquainted with the force of my Ship, that he was well prepared for me both with men and ammunition, and that he had made Oath never to strike his colours. By this time he had placed his Ship between me and the town of Miconi, which obliged me to carry out another Anchor to warp the Ship further ahead, in order that my Guns might point clear of the Town; at one o'clock I got abreast of him, having secured my Ship with Springs on the Cables. I gave him a broadside, which he instantly returned—the Action lasted without a moment's intermission for an hour and ten minutes, when I had the satisfaction of seeing the National Colours hauled down & taking possession of her. She proved to be La Sybille, of 46 guns 430 men, commanded by Commodore Rondeau, who had been reigning triumphant in these seas for these last two years. I am sorry to say that I had eight men killed & thirty wounded, two of whom are since dead, but I think myself particularly fortunate in not having lost more, considering the number of Shot that hulled us, & all of them close to the Ports.—Ever, &c., (Signed) W. PAGET.

From Lord MALMESBURY *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

MANNHEIM, *July* 6, 1794, *Sunday*, 5 P.M.

As I take it for granted that Mr. Rose has left Berlin, I address my letter to you. The Messenger is charged with one to Count Haugwitz which I leave under flying seal for you to read, and as I know Lord St. Helens kept you up to the order of the day when you were at the Hague, you will perfectly understand why I write to that Minister thus forcibly. This letter will state to you almost the whole of our negotiation—here we are at a

dead lock. The Marshal persists in his determination not to move till he has orders from the King, while I maintain that we have the power of forcing him to move in virtue of the Treaty.* In this state of suspense things will remain some days longer. I should take it as a very particular favour if you will send me all the *interior* politics of Berlin you can collect, they are so closely connected with what passes at a distance that it is very essential for me to be informed of them. When does the King come back? Where is he?

I am more sorry than surprised to find from your letter of the 30th June, that you were sent away with such very vague instructions; you are very kind in all you say about me, and I should not, nor shall not, scruple troubling you on any points that I may conceive to be interesting, and as it appears your return depends on mine, you may also rest assured that I shall endeavour to shorten our stay on the Continent as much as possible.

Marshal Möllendorf† has obtained some trifling advantages over the enemy, which he makes sound very high, but which are really not worthy notice. I believe Reede, the Dutch Minister, is not at Berlin. Rose will have told you that he is a piqued and disappointed man, and as he attributes part of his disappointments to me that he does not treat me with much indulgence. You will therefore be so good whenever he converses about me, to make some allowance for this circumstance. You will be good enough to send away my Messenger as soon as possible. I have no cypher, therefore unless you use lemon-juice, can never hear from you comfortably, but through a Messenger.—Ever, my dear Paget, &c. &c.,

(Signed) MALMESBURY.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord MALMESBURY.

BERLIN, *July* 12, 1794.

MY DEAR LORD,—Having been detained till Friday evening at the Hague, I did not reach this place till

* Treaty of the Hague, April 19, by which England guaranteed a subsidy for the Prussian Army.

† Möllendorf (b. 1722) had been page to Frederick the Great; he fought in the war of the Bavarian succession in 1778; not approving of the cam-

Wednesday night. Wiffin arrived on Thursday morning, and as I had not then been presented to the Prussian Minister, I was under the necessity of *sending* your letter to Count Haugwitz. Mr. Rose, however, waited upon him, and expressed my wishes to see him at as early an opportunity as he could conveniently fix. I could not, however, obtain this before to-day, at which time I was to receive his answer to your letter. Your Lordship will naturally be much surprised at not receiving it by your own Messenger, and my astonishment was not less when he told me that he had already dispatched a Prussian Messenger with letters to yourself and Field-Marshal Möllendorf. I could not conceal my surprise and dissatisfaction at this intelligence, but he assured me solemnly that he was ignorant of my intention of re-dispatching the Messenger, or that he would by preference have taken that opportunity of writing to you. I cannot altogether give credit to this, nor can I divest myself of the idea that it was his unwillingness to send his letters to the Field-Marshal through our hands, as he told Rose that I was to receive his answer at the time that I was presented to him. His courier went away this morning, but he has desired that I will keep Wiffin till 8 o'clock to-morrow morning, at which time he will have a second letter ready for your Lordship, assuring me that he would be at Mayence before his own as he had to make a considerable detour to the Head Quarters. I now trust to your indulgence for overlooking what may at first view appear neglectful in me, and I as sincerely trust that the circumstances I have mentioned will acquit me. I will now trouble you with an extract of my letter to the Office of to-day.

I am much afraid that the above surmise is but too true, as I find since from undoubted authority that Full Powers have been sent from the King to Field-Marshal Möllendorf for concerting the future operations of the campaign. If this is the case, little I fear is to be expected from the future interference and good-will of

paign against the French he fell in disgrace in 1791, but the King of Prussia afterwards relaxed and partly took Möllendorf's view, and gave him command in the ecclesiastical electorates. Napoleon respected his ability very much; Lord Malmesbury thought highly of him. At eighty-four he fought, and was severely wounded at Jena.

Haugwitz. The subsidy to the end of May arrived two days ago, but he tells me that it will be a month before the troops can be *en état de mobilité*. Much mischief may be done in the meantime.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 2.] BERLIN, *July* 15, 1794.

MY LORD,—I waited this morning upon Count Haugwitz, and in a short conversation expressed my confidence that the want of pecuniary means being now removed by the arrival of the subsidy, no other obstacle would arise to prevent the immediate march of the Prussian Army. His Excellency assured me of his full persuasion that the orders now conveyed by Mr. de Meyring* to Field-Marshal Möllendorf were of so ample and definitive a nature, as would not fail of affording the most entire satisfaction to the reigning parties. Count Haugwitz reposes the utmost confidence in Lord Malmesbury's abilities and disposition, and feels persuaded that the most perfect harmony of opinion will in future prevail between that nobleman and Mr. de Möllendorf. He dwelt, however, much upon the danger of leaving, by the march of the Prussians, a country exposed to the irruptions of the enemy; but it is manifest that this misfortune would be attended with much less permanent and serious consequences than were the invasion of Holland to be effected.

[*Cypher.*] I have as yet no reason to retract what I ventured to suggest in my last relative to the decline of Count Haugwitz's influence, all he has ever said to me is, I believe, purely conjecture. Certain it is, however, that what passes between His Prussian Majesty and Field-Marshal Möllendorf is not communicated here. [*Cypher ends.*]

A Courier arrived last night from the Head Quarters of the King of Prussia. It seems that Kosciusko with his whole force is absolutely under the cannon of Warsaw, and that His Prussian Majesty was not above 2 miles from that Capital, the fate of which we are in hourly expectation of learning. Three mails are due from Petersburg and the like number from Warsaw.

* Or Meyerinck, first aide-de-camp to Möllendorf.

From Lord St. Helens* *to* Hon. A. Paget.

Hague, *Friday, July* 18, 1794.

My dear Sir.—Y^r Dispatch of the 12th (No. 1) is just arrived; and you must allow me, as an old stager, to take the freedom of telling you, that it is such, both as to style and matter, as the most practised Minister of us all w^d have been proud to have written. I know that you have no great liking to this line of ours, but I most sincerely hope, both for the good of the King's Service and the honour of our Corps, that you will finally resolve to continue in it; and indeed I cannot doubt that Lord Grenville will do his utmost to make it worth your while. Nothing could be more properly put, or better-timed than your representation to Count Haugwitz; and the answer you received, tho' inconclusive, is at least the most satisfactory that has been obtained since the breaking up of the conferences at Maestricht.

L^d Malmesbury's last letters, which are dated on the same day with your's, give no hopes of the speedy arrival of any part of Marshal Möllendorff's Army; neither has he as yet obtained any *éclaircissement* of the real causes of the non-performance of what had been so solemnly stipulated. Should this resource ultimately fail I see little hope of preserving this Country, for tho' our Army and that of the Dutch will no doubt make a vigorous stand, it is next to impossible, considering the enormous superiority of the Enemy, that they sh^d be able to hold out till the end of the Campaign, without the assistance of a Foreign Force; and you know how little reliance can be placed upon that of the Austrians. In the Leyden Gazette of to-day you will see a tolerably exact account of the present disposition of our Force; but I am in hourly expectation of hearing that our advanced posts beyond the Dyke have been pent in, which would precipitate further retreat; not to mention the danger of our being attacked in the rear from the side of Flanders.†

* Minister to the United Provinces.

† The French victory at Fleurus in June had left all Belgium open to the invaders.

In the midst of these melancholy prospects I have great comfort in finding by my publick and private letters from England that the Gov^t as well as the nation at large, far from giving way to dejection or despondency, seem resolved to augment their efforts to repell the danger in proportion as it becomes more imminent. You will no doubt have received the details of the new Ministerial arrangements, which, tho' inconvenient in some respects, will certainly be of great use in securing unanimity amongst all the persons who have hitherto guided the public opinion;* and you will observe from the detail of the arrangement that Mr. Pitt has conducted it with great address, and particularly by engaging the great Whig Leader† of all, to accept of an Office which invests him with the sole administration of the discretionary powers given to H. M^y by the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act.

Adieu, my Dear Sir, you shall constantly hear from me when anything occurs worth your knowing, but pray don't trouble yourself to answer my letters unless you sh^d have any thing to tell me that you may have thought fit to omit in your dispatch.—Yrs most sincerely,

ST. HELENS.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 3.] BERLIN, *July* 19, 1794.

MY LORD,—As Your Lordship will of course have received an account of the Prussians having been attacked by the French on the 14th inst. between Kaiserslautern and Rausal, I will merely mention that the news arrived here this morning, but as yet no particulars of the action have transpired, further than the Prussians having lost six pieces of cannon.

Your Lordship will do me the justice to believe that during my short residence here, I have left no argument unsaid which my imagination has been able to suggest, or the circumstances point out, to prove the existing

* The "Old Whigs," led by the Duke of Portland, Lord Fitzwilliam, Lord Spencer, and Windham, left Fox and gave their adhesion to the Government.

† The Duke of Portland, who had been the Whig Prime Minister in 1783, was now made Home Secretary, and remained in that office till 1801.

necessity that some effectual measures should be decided upon, by which immediate succour may be given where we have most need of it. I have not hesitated to say that the abandoning the Palatinate would be but a small sacrifice, if Holland could be saved by it. This, however, may perhaps become a necessary evil.

[*Cypher.*] I have not been able to forbear mentioning to Count Haugwitz the extreme pain I felt that such immense sums of money should pass through my hands into this Treasury, without, as I had as yet been able to perceive, producing any ostensible good effect. He recurred to his old argument and assured me that without it not a Prussian regiment would at this moment be from home, and begged that I would repeat to Your Lordship that it was not mistrust on his part in the English Government (of which he was accused during the negotiation at the Hague) when he insisted upon the actual payment of the subsidy before the troops could march, but a too intimate knowledge of the state of the finances of this country. In consequence of my late suggestions on this subject to Your Lordship, I took an opportunity in my conversation with Count Haugwitz this morning of hinting that so long an absence from the King might possibly have tended to diminish the unbounded confidence he formerly possessed of his Sovereign. He begged me, however, from the interest he was convinced I took in what concerned him, to make myself perfectly easy, for that he himself felt secure that his credit was by no means shaken, or his favour on the decline. This Court, however, is too notorious for intrigue of every sort not to leave room for suspicion. [*Cypher ends.*]

Letters received from Poland this morning mention that His Prussian Majesty was within one league of Warsaw, and that Kosciusko still maintained his position under the cannon of that town.—I have the honor to be, &c. &c., (Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 4.] BERLIN, *July* 22, 1794.

MY LORD,—The retreat of the Austrians over the Rhine, an account of which was received here this

morning, has not failed to create the greatest surprise. In fact the blow was the more unexpected as the Duke of Sa..e Teschen had three weeks ago pledged himself to defend the whole country between Treves and Basle. By this retrograde motion of the Austrians the Prussian Army is left exposed singly to the superior force of the French, which it is said here amount to 120,000 men. It may, however, have the effect of obliging Field-Marshal Möllendorf to withdraw his troops from the Palatinate.

[*Cypher.*] This retreat of the Austrians is sadly complained of here, and has certainly given rise to the foulest suspicions in the minds of military men. I should, however, observe that Count Haugwitz in speaking of it to me desired to be understood as harbouring no such thought. He has lately been rather uneasy lest a coolness should have prevailed between Lord Malmesbury and Field-Marshal Möllendorf, but seems at present inclined to think that the latter will employ every means by which a perfect understanding may take place. He told me that for that purpose the Field-Marshal had dispatched Mr. de Meyring to His Lordship at Mannheim, and that from the nature of the commission with which he was charged he formed the most sanguine hopes that his journey might be productive of the most salutary end.

In talking lately with Count Haugwitz he seemed to think that if the combined armies could at once obtain so formidable a defensive position, as to make a peace on honorable terms attainable, it would be the most desirable object for the belligerent powers. He desired I would not consider this as ministerial, but merely a subject for conversation without any further view. [*Cypher ends.*]

Letters of the 17th received this morning from Poland state that Kosciusko had detached part of his army to the other side of the Vistula, and that he had drawn the remaining part into Warsaw. His Prussian Majesty still remained within half a league from the town, waiting for his heavy artillery which was not to arrive from Gaudenz till the 20th. The Russian corps under General Dufelden is still at a considerable distance from Warsaw. The insurrection in Courland of which Your

Lordship has had advice, will probably receive an immediate check, as doubtless the Russian army under the command of Prince Repnin will not remain inactive in so near a neighbourhood.

The Baron de Reede* having received orders from his Government to return without loss of time to his post, arrived here yesterday evening from Carlsbad.

Five mails are this day due from Petersburg.—I have the honor to be, &c. &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 5.] BERLIN, *July* 26, 1794, *Saturday night.*

MY LORD,—On Thursday night I received a letter from Messrs. Parish and Co. of Hamburg, informing me that in consequence of a paragraph in a letter from their correspondents, Messrs. Harman Hoare & Co., they had refused to pay to Messrs. Ohmann & Co. of Hamburg the 120,000 in Piastres brought over by His Majesty's Frigate Mermaid, though they had received, as I had the honor of informing Your Lordship in my Dispatch No. 3, my instructions to that effect.†

This circumstance immediately appeared to me in the most serious light, and as likely to cause the greatest alarm here, and I was upon the point of setting out to call upon the Counts Haugwitz and Struensee,‡ whom I knew would have received intelligence of the transaction, when I received a note from the former desiring to see me without loss of time. It was not difficult to guess what was to come from this Minister upon the occasion; I therefore felt myself perfectly prepared to answer him. He seemed as I expected exceedingly alarmed, and in conversation of some length which it would be tiresome

* Dutch Minister in Berlin.

† In July the English Cabinet proposed to withhold payments from Prussia. Ultimately, by the advice of the Duke of Portland and Mr. Pitt, it was decided to continue the subsidy. Mr. Paget apparently did not know of the difficulty in England.

‡ Brother of the unfortunate Danish Minister, brought by Frederick the Great from Denmark. He began life as professor of mathematics, and in 1791 became Minister of State in Prussia. His reputation was astonishingly high: Mirabeau, Lord Malmesbury, and Schön all praise his genius. He was head of the Treasury and also chief of the Maritime Institute.

to recapitulate to Your Lordship, as the ground has been gone over so often, he repeated to me that it had been his grand object since he has been in administration, but more particularly since the commencement of the last negotiation to cement as much as possible the friendships and unanimity which had so long subsisted, and he trusted would continue to subsist, between the two countries,—that sensible of the common interest we both had in preserving undiminished this system of amity, he had (though for many reasons it was inconvenient to him) come to the resolution of accompanying Lord Malmesbury to the Hague, in order by his exertions to conclude a Treaty,* which the danger of the moment, the interest of the parties and the welfare of nations pointed out the necessity of. He had succeeded in bringing this important negotiation to an issue, and he had since that time seen the good effect of it. He now sent for me to express his surprise and alarm at this open violation of the Treaty of which he dreaded the consequences, from the conviction he was under of His Prussian Majesty's firm resolution to withdraw his troops at the instant the maritime powers should with-hold their pecuniary succour. In reply to this exposition I took upon me to disavow to Count Haugwitz the conduct of Messrs. Parish & Co. of Hamburg. I persisted that we had not in any one instance hitherto invalidated our Treaty, that the delay in the remittances was unavoidable for obvious commercial reasons, and that I considered this non-compliance on the part of these merchants with my instructions as either proceeding from profound ignorance and stupidity, or from a thirst after gain which the money while in their hands must produce, and I observed that the circumstance of my having at the particular request of M. de Struensee given positive orders for the payment of the money to the Prussian Agent at Hamburg ought when put into the other scale to weigh so much as not to leave room upon which a doubt can be rested.

I was aware that it would be the duty of this Ministry

* April 19, 1794. For a subsidy of £50,000 a month, with some extra payments by Holland and England, Prussia was to furnish 62,400 soldiers, to act "as the Maritime Powers direct"

to make a report of this transaction at Hamburg to His Prussian Majesty, and in this I was not deceived, for Count Haugwitz told me that he could not avoid, though he should do it most reluctantly, mentioning the circumstance. He however promised me to represent it as favourably as possible, and in the point of view I put it. In short, my Lord, I am so fully persuaded that the whole of this business, which has created so much alarm and uneasiness in the mind of the Prussian Minister, has only proceeded from an unpardonable neglect of my instructions, that I sent off an estafette last night to Messrs. Parish & Co. at Hamburg, with a letter (not to trouble Your Lordship with a copy of it) expressing my surprise and dissatisfaction at their conduct, and giving them at the same time the most positive directions not in future to attend to any orders that do not come positively from Government. I enclose a copy of a post-script to one of their letters by which Your Lordship will see that by what they deem an equivocal expression in Messrs. Harman, Hoare & Co.'s letter, the whole of this disagreeable misunderstanding has been brought about. I read my letter to these gentlemen to Count Haugwitz, and he seemed perfectly satisfied with its contents.

It has been upon the assurances that I have given Count Haugwitz that I have been able to prevail upon him not to make an immediate communication of the business to Field-Marshal Möllendorf, and as that officer is in possession of full and discretionary powers from the King, not to mention that he has also positive orders for withdrawing the troops in case of a retention of the subsidy, the consequences might have been not only highly pernicious and detrimental to the common cause, but, I doubt not, violent and immediate.

In a review of what has been done by this Power since the signing of the Treaty at the Hague, I have uniformly represented to this Ministry, as forcibly as my imperfect military knowledge has allowed me, the manifest disadvantage of maintaining the parts between the Moselle and Rhine, when compared with the grand objects to be attained by a different and more natural disposition of their army, and in truth no one can deny that the integrity of the province of Westphalia is of much more

importance to this Court, than the forming a barrier against an incursion into Suabia and Franconia. But my Lord, however feebly supported my arguments may be, and however small the weight they may carry with them, I have at least the satisfaction of having it in my power to inform Your Lordship that the States of the Duchy of Cleves, have presented a strong requisition to His Prussian Majesty through M. de Heinitz, Minister for that Department, urging the immediate march of his troops into that country as the only means of preserving it, and have offered even to provide for the army while it shall remain in that quarter. This has been sent to the King, but as yet no answer is returned and I very much fear that unless the Austrians can be solemnly engaged to defend the Palatinate that nothing will at this moment induce the Field-Marshal to quit his present position.

I waited again by appointment upon Count Haugwitz at seven o'clock this morning, and after having signified that it was the greatest mark of esteem and confidence he could show me, he read me two letters to Monsieur Jacobi* on the subject of the former part of my dispatch, one from the King, the other from himself to that Minister, and desired me to send them by my Messenger. As the contents will be immediately communicated to Your Lordship, I will relate in a few words that after Count Haugwitz had made a perusal of these dispatches I expressed to him very frankly that I considered the tenor of them such as the present circumstances, but more particularly the subject in question, did not require. I conceived that after the conciliatory assurances that I had given yesterday, and the solemn manner in which I had protested against the proceedings of Messrs. Parish & Co., that His Prussian Majesty's letter might have been somewhat softened, and that in my opinion this was not a moment to make remonstrances, while the grievance was but theoretical. Count Haugwitz defended himself upon the principle that the sooner an *éclaircissement* was given the better it would be, and though he was perfectly willing to believe that the misunderstanding might proceed from ignorance or

* Prussian Minister in London.

chicanery on the part of the merchants, that still having already been once threatened by Lord Malmesbury, it was from a real desire and persuasion that a satisfactory answer would be made that he had been induced to dictate the above-mentioned letter.

It only remains for me now, My Lord, from the very decided part I have taken in this business to await Your Lordship's sentence upon my conduct, but I must observe that I have been guided solely by zeal and attachment to His Majesty's Service.—I have the honour to be, &c. &c., (Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[Private.] BERLIN, 26 *July*, 1794.

MY LORD,—My principal reason for dispatching Brookes is that I may be supplied as soon as Your Lordship can find time with instructions relative to the future payment of the subsidy, and to beg Your Lordship at the same time will have the kindness to cause such orders to be sent to Messrs. Parish and Co. as will in future oblige them to submit entirely to my directions on that subject, for as long as Messrs. Harman, Hoare & Co. are permitted to raise doubts and scruples in the minds of their correspondents, no real business can be done. This I suggest to Your Lordship in case you should think proper to entrust me with the payment of the subsidy, as hitherto I have not been regularly authorized by Your Lordship to transact the monthly payments.

Before I left England I received a hint from Mr. Burgess that it would be highly interesting to Your Lordship to get some information relative to the people called *Illuminés*,* and more particularly of that sect whose principles are Jacobinism. Your Lordship may

* In the sixteenth century, during the Catholic reaction, a mild sect of gentle mystics, calling themselves *Illuminati*, arose in Spain and Southern France. Without denying dogma they taught the Gospel of Love, which they thought was the sole guide of conduct. The Jesuits used them and discarded them as occasion served. In the Jesuit colleges the tradition of this sect of mystics continued until the latter half of the last century; and at that time, when a wave of credulity passed over the Continent, as seen in Cagliostro's strange career, Adam Weishaupt, a professor of Canon Law at the Jesuit College of Ingolstadt, founded what he called "the Order of Illuminati." The aims of the Order were the brotherhood of man under the rule of the

believe me when I say that I have during the short time I have been here, spared no pains in getting information upon this subject, and can now venture to affirm that the sect called *Les Propagandes*, which is that which I was particularly advised to enquire about, hardly exists in the country. There are perhaps some individuals, but these are of no note, at least I have been able to get no credible information as to their name, and the other sect is too well known to Your Lordship to require that I should trouble you about it. There are, however, one or two circumstances which have lately occurred here, which cannot be entirely uninteresting. Very soon, before my arrival here three officers had been dismissed from the Regiment of Gens d'armes, for, as it was said, misconduct, but the real reason was that they had for some time made a practice of speaking in public, and on every occasion in the most disrespectful terms of the King. This, in the late reign, could never have happened, but His present Majesty since his accession, and particularly during the first year of his reign, showed if not a dislike, at least an entire neglect of the Army; the next is, My Lord, a spirit of rebellion which has crept in within these few months, but more visibly within these few weeks, among the workmen. Hitherto, however, no great excess has been committed, but one inference may be drawn which is that the Army no longer commands the same degree of respect which has hitherto made it the bulwark of the present established form of Government.

I have heard said very authoritatively that the idea of being subsidized has caused very general disgust in the Prussian Army, both among officers and men.

From what Your Lordship was so good as to say before I left England, I hope that it is considered that I have

wise; the overthrow of throne and altar; and the organisation of society on the model of the Order of the Jesuits. Many romantic minds, repelled by the destructive criticism of the day, were attracted by these alluring doctrines, and a veil of secrecy and hints of thaumaturgy added to the allurement. The Order was harmless in most places, confining itself to the speculations of metaphysical theology. In Bavaria, however, it took a more dangerous shape after Charles Theodore had unwisely suppressed the Order, and ordered the expulsion of its members. It then gained strength as an occult society, and taught "French principles" in the most exclusive circles, while through leagues and associations its members controlled the masses of the people. Weishaupt took refuge in Gotha, where he died in 1822.

leave to return as soon as Lord Henry Spencer may arrive here.—I have the honour to be, &c. &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord ST. HELENS.

BERLIN, 26 *July*, 1794.

MY LORD,—I thank you most sincerely for the very kind and friendly letter* you did me the honour to write on the 18th and which I received by the last post. I beg Your Lordship to be fully persuaded that nothing ever did or can give me more real pleasure than having met with your approbation. I confess to you, My Lord, very fairly, that my only objection to the line is that of living out of England, but this is so forcible a one that I despair of ever overcoming it.

This may be a very critical, but it is by no means a pleasant moment to be employed. All here is uphill work, and I am persuaded that I never can be of the smallest use. Haugwitz really appears most perfectly hearty in the cause, but I cannot think that he can stand against Bischoffswerder, Manstein, and Lucchesini. He is as friendly as possible, which is a pleasant circumstance. The letters he read me this morning to Jacobi, which you will see mentioned in the Dispatch, are really savage, particularly that from the King. They demand a point-blank explanation of this business at Hamburg, and threaten to withdraw the troops unless satisfaction is given for the past, present and future.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 7.] BERLIN, 29 *July*, 1794.

[*Cypher.*] MY LORD,—As long as the subsidy is not regularly remitted, it will be impossible to get anything like a satisfactory answer relative to the measures to be adopted by this Court. Every department that is concerned, but more particularly the College of War, is crying out at the delay. In vain have I urged the unavoidable

* See *ante*, July 18.

difficulties attendant upon remittances of such large sums. Count Haugwitz has repeatedly assured me that this country has not the means of advancing a single monthly payment, but I begin now to think that nothing will engage M. de Möllendorf to quit his present position (without he is driven from it, a circumstance not by any means improbable), unless the Duke of Saxe Teschen* can be prevailed upon to repass the Rhine and make face against the enemy in a country he has so unaccountably abandoned. [*Cypher ends.*]

We have no further news of the smallest consequence from Poland. The heavy artillery was not to arrive at the Prussian camp till the 24th.

From Lord MALMESBURY *to* Hon. A. PAGET.

FRANCFORT, 30 *July*, 1794, *Wednesday*.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have many thanks to return you for y^r^ long and interesting letter by Wiffin & for another I have since received from you by the post—nothing should have prevented my doing this sooner but the want of a safe conveyance, and also my having been perpetually changing the place of my residence.

I now have particularly to request of you to explain to me why Count Struensee has written word to Count Schulenberg† that the £120,000 (the subsidy for the month of July) has been stopt, or at least the payment of it suspended by order of the British Gov^t^. I am confident no such order exists, and that Count Struensee has been either grossly misinformed or some mistake taken place at Hamburg which I am sure you will be so good as to rectify. This is the more material as in my last conversation with the Marshal Möllendorf, an agreement was taken between him and the Duke of Saxe Teschen, that the Austrians should cover the Country from Mannheim to Mentz (inclusively) & the Prussians take charge of the line of defence from Mentz to Coblentz, on condition that the Austrian Army,

* Duke Albert of Saxe-Teschen, Commander of the Austrians in the Netherlands, as Möllendorf was of the Prussians. He was Viceroy of the Netherlands, and his wife was daughter of Maria Theresa.

† Commissary-General. He divided with Struensee the control of finance.

under the command of Prince Cobourg, should maintain its present position on the Meuse and protect Maestricht and Venlo.

This measure is a very material one & as I am satisfied the report of the subsidy (brought by the "Mermaid") being stopt is perfectly void of foundation, I should be glad it should be immediately set right & assurances given that no intention exists on the part of His Majesty to take any step which may tend to create a coolness between the two Courts.

L[d] Spencer & Mr. T. Grenville are here on their road to Vienna. Their object is to animate that Court to greater exertions in the War, to endeavour to make it offensive on the side of the Low Countries, and in short to do what is so much wanting, to form a regular and well digested plan of co-operation between all the coalesced powers.

I write this by a Prussian chasseur in such a hurry that I fear it is scarce legible—pray give my kind Compts. to C[t] Haugwiz and believe me, dear Paget, &c.,

MALMESBURY.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 8.] BERLIN, 2 *August*, 1794.

MY LORD,—We are now waiting with infinite anxiety the return of Lord Malmesbury's and Baron Kinckel's journey to Schwetzingen,* the Head Quarters of the Duke of Saxe Teschen, as on this will greatly depend the future operations of the Prussian army, and if that General can be brought to take possession of the Posts now occupied by the Field-Marshal, I have every reason to flatter myself, from the positive assurances given me, that the march of the Prussian army towards Holland will be effectuated without delay.

His Excellency Count Haugwitz has particularly requested of me to furnish without loss of time Messrs. Hope & Co. at Amsterdam and Messrs. Parish & Co. at

* In accordance with the Treaty of the Hague, a military convention was drawn up, July 26, at Schwetzingen between the Duke of Saxe Teschen and Möllendorf, sanctioned by Lord Malmesbury and Baron Kinckel, for the co-operation of the armies, with a secret clause extending the time of their action and making arrangements about conquests.

Hamburg with instructions, that that part of the subsidy for this present month which is already remitted to them, should be left at the entire disposal of His Excellency Mr. de Struensee. As the delay of the monthly payments has been uniformly stated to me as a matter of the greatest inconvenience to this Court, and a circumstance which must infallibly give rise to doubts and uneasiness which it is so much an object to avoid, and which would otherwise not exist, I have consented to write to the above houses to that effect.

The accounts from Poland are so incoherent and so contradictory that I cannot with propriety take upon myself to give Your Lordship any positive information upon the subject. It is generally believed that the bombardment of Warsaw was to have begun on the 27th. The fate therefore of that place must, I am inclined to think, be at this moment decided. I am however by no means of opinion that by this success the affairs in Poland are likely to be terminated, as it is possible that His Prussian Majesty may find it expedient to cross the Vistula, and even penetrate as far as the Bug.—I have, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 10.] BERLIN, 2 *August*, 1794.

MY LORD,—It appears by later accounts from Poland of the 3rd, that the bombardment continues and that one of the Faubourgs of Warsaw has been set fire to.

[*Cypher.*] The affairs in Poland have hitherto been considered in much too trivial a light, and however easy the subjection of this Nation might have appeared in the commencement, certain it is that at this present moment difficulties of the most serious nature remain to be surmounted before any judgment can be formed as to the final Issue of the struggle. With respect to the military operations of the Army, they have been unskilful and even puerile, and Your Lordship will, not without reason, be astonished when I inform you that in order to prosecute this attack upon Warsaw, His Prussian Majesty has been under the necessity of sending to Breslau for a further supply of heavy Artillery. This circumstance is denied here, but I

know from undoubted authority that the Peasants in Silesia have received orders to furnish 2000 horses for the transport of it. In other respects the Prussian Army is without provisions, and the want of water is particularly pressing. It is said that a price has been set upon the heads of the King and his two sons, but I will not vouch for the truth of this.

The Imperial Minister* has received an answer to the third requisition he made some time ago for the Prussian Contingent, which amounts to a positive refusal. I have not yet seen the answer, but I know that Prince Reuss is much dissatisfied with the style in which it is drawn up. Among other arguments it is urged that His Royal Majesty in addition to the common cause in which the other belligerent Powers are engaged, is employed in defending the opposite side of the Empire from the Incursions of Polish Jacobins.† [*Cypher ends.*]

An account was this morning received of the Austrians having been obliged to evacuate the territory of the Republic in consequence of an insurrection which has broken out in Gallicia.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 12.] BERLIN, 16 *August*, 1794.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to enclose an Edict which has appeared this day in consequence of the late tumultuous and disorderly behaviour of the different classes of Workmen in this City. It is much to be hoped that the prudent and resolute measures which His Prussian Majesty has judged expedient to adopt on this occasion will check the progress of this evil. It has also been found necessary to arrest about 100 of the Rioters who have been conducted and lodged in the fortress of Spandau.

The Regiment of the Prince of Wirtemburg has received orders to repel the attacks of a fresh enemy which has appeared in that Country under the command of a certain Rogulinsko, who has found means to escape from the camp of Kosciusko with about 300 Partisans and has

* Prince Reuss.

† See letter of Lord St. Helens, September 19.

since committed the greatest excesses and ravages in that part of His Prussian Majesty's dominions.

[*Cypher.*] It is believed, although not acknowledged by the Ministers, that His Prussian Majesty has retreated two German miles from before Warsaw in consequence of a message from the Polish General informing him that if the bombardment continued he would not answer for the King of Poland's life. I cannot answer for the authority of this report, but am inclined to think that the Polish Artillery has rather contributed to hasten this retreat.

The Imperial Minister received last night a Courier from St. Petersburg, and I have since learnt that Colonel Cobentzl has written word that the Russian Minister here will receive orders immediately to make a formal requisition of the Prussian Contingent. . . . .

P.S.—I have this instant learnt and have only time to add that orders have been received to prepare the King's apartments at the Palace, and that His Prussian Majesty who is to be here in a fortnight will immediately proceed to take the command of his army on the Rhine. [*Cypher ends.*]

From Lord MALMESBURY *to* Hon. A. PAGET.*

(*Lemon Juice.*) FRANCKFORT, *August* 16, 1794.

MY DEAR SIR,—You are perfectly right in your information. Haugwitz is nobody. Lucchesini rules despotically, and as he did not make the subsidiary Treaty† he opposes it in every part. Möllendorf is a dotard. His parts and mind are gone, and nothing remains but his vanity and malice. The Army is in as high order as possible, but we never shall derive any real benefit from it. All the leading officers are ill-disposed, and many of them with decided Jacobin leaning. The loss of Treves is to be attributed solely to wilful negligence on the part of Kalkreuth. I have pressed Möllendorf strongly to make an attempt to retake it, but I am certain without effect, although there is little doubt but the measure would succeed. Reede is a bilious, proud, disappointed man. He is particularly

* Printed in Lord Malmesbury's "Diaries," iii. 128.
† Of the Hague.

angry with me, but without shadow of reason. He is also led by his Secretary Bourdeaux who is a notorious democrat. I cannot guess how long I am likely to remain on the Continent. It depends on events.—Ever yours, &c., (Signed) MALMESBURY.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

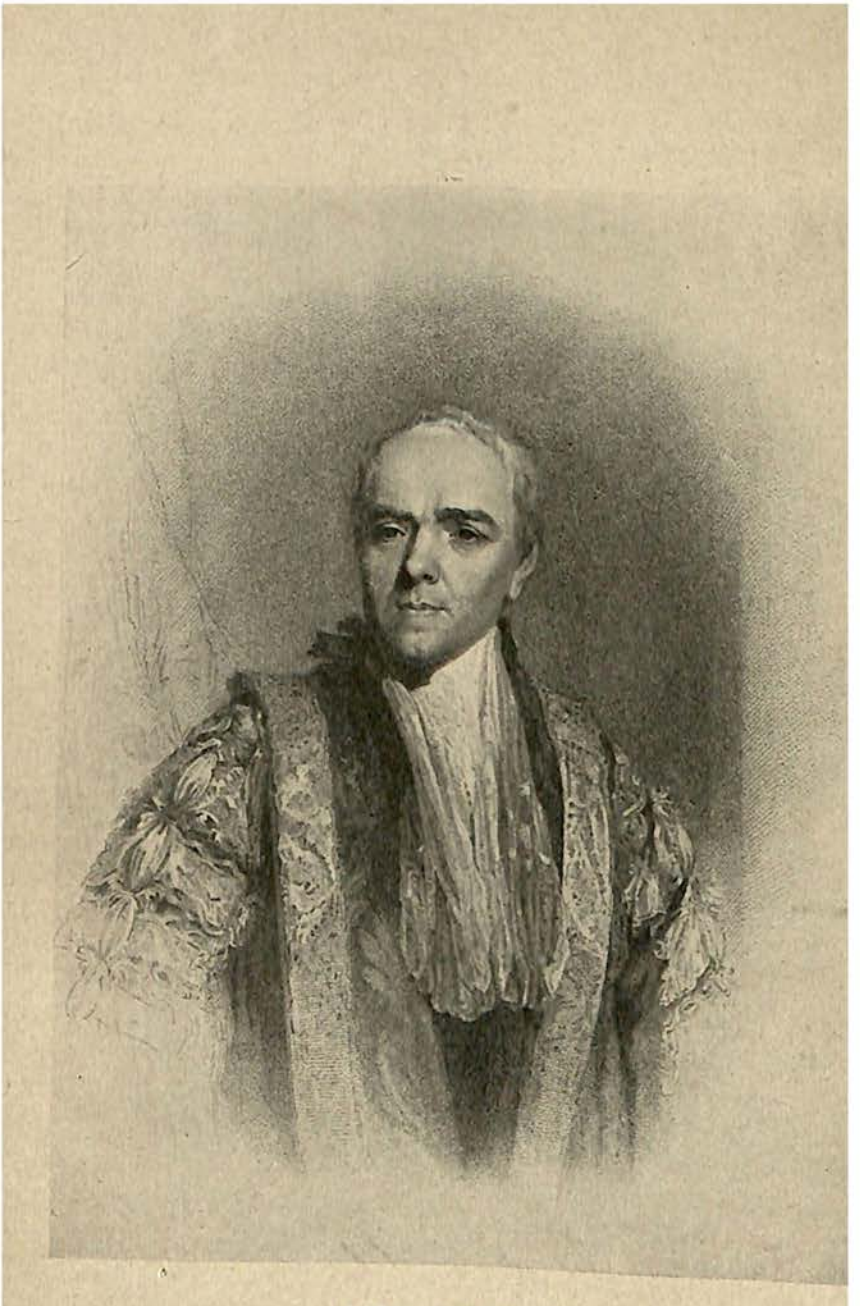
[No. 1.] DOWNING ST., 16 *August*, 1794.

SIR,—Your Dispatches to No. — have been received, and laid before the King, and I have great satisfaction in expressing to you His Majesty's entire approbation of your very proper conduct under the different circumstances which have occurred since your arrival at Berlin.

The mistake of Messrs. Parish & Co., and the consequent difficulties which had arisen, are now I imagine entirely removed, and I remit to you herewith a copy of a letter from Messrs. Harman & Co. to Mr. Pitt giving an account of the measures taken for the payment of the subsidy of the present month.

I think it right to acquaint you that Mon. Jacobi yesterday, at the usual conferences, took upon himself to complain of the manner in which the late treaty had hitherto been executed on His Majesty's part, and to ask what were His Majesty's intentions with respect to the Future. To the first part of this communication, it was impossible to give any other answer than that if the Treaty had hitherto not been punctually executed it was notorious to all Europe, that the failure had not been on His Majesty's part. With respect to what was to come, he was told explicitly that the same exact and punctual execution of the Treaty on His Majesty's part would nevertheless be continued, provided that it was for the future more punctually fulfilled on the other side by His Prussian Majesty.

After this answer, which so extraordinary a demand on his part rendered indispensable, he was told that, without wishing to refer to the just ground of complaint which past transactions had given to this Court, it seemed sufficient now to say that under the circumstances which recent events had occasioned, His Majesty regarded the disposal of the Prussian army, such as it



LORD GRENVILLE

had been settled in the agreement made between Duke Albert and Marshal Möllendorf, as being, for the present, the best which could be made for the common cause. But great care was taken to explain to him that this acquiescence regarded the present circumstances only, and that nothing could be further from His Majesty's Ideas than the admitting any part of the reasoning by which Marshal Möllendorf endeavoured to give to the Treaty a sense directly contrary to its evident and unquestionable meaning.

You will of course regulate your language in exact conformity to what I have above stated, and you will plainly give it to be understood by the Court of Berlin that the continuance of the liberal subsidy granted by His Majesty will depend solely on the faithful execution of the Engagements taken by Marshal Möllendorf and the efficient service of the Prussian army under his command. . . . . (Signed) GRENVILLE.

From Lord ST. HELENS *to* Hon. A. PAGET.

HAGUE, *Tuesday*, 19 *August*, 1794.

MY DEAR SIR,—You will have been surprised at the armistice which has taken place between the armies on this side since the evacuation of the Austrian Provinces by that of the allies, and it is in truth difficult to account for the forbearance of the Enemy in not pressing upon the country at a time when a vigorous attack might perhaps have been fatal. At present the means of Defence which we have mustered together, added to the arrangements made between the Dukes of Saxe Teschin & F. Marshal Möllendorff for the defence of the Rhine and the Meuse, and, above all, the approach of the rainy season, seem to afford us something like a prospect of security, tho' the alarm here is still very great and people are daily removing with what effects they can carry away. The town of Sluys in Dutch Flanders which has been besieged for some time and was given over for lost, has unexpectedly made a brilliant defence, and there is even reason to hope that the Enemy who have lost a great number of men before it, especially thro' the unwholesomeness of the climate, may abandon

this enterprize. A reinforcement of Ships & Troops is just arrived in the Scheldt from England, and in the command of L^d^ Mulgrave and Admiral Harvey, and will probably be employed for the present in protecting the Province of Zeeland.

Count Mercy* is at last arrived in England after having been detained near a fortnight at the Court, and I hope to hear soon of his having adjusted with H.M.'s Ministers some efficacious plan for the recovery of the Netherlands, of the particulars of which as soon as it may be settled you will no doubt be informed, and be authorized to communicate them to His Prussian M^y's^ Ministers.

I must mention to you in confidence that the Count d'Artois is at present at Rotterdam in his way to England, whither he has been invited† by H.M.; but owing to a mistake he has set out upon this journey somewhat too soon, so that he will remain *incognito* in this country or neighbourhood some weeks longer till matters shall be ready for his reception. I do not know in what way he is to be employed, and I rather suspect that nothing is absolutely settled on that head. There can be no objection to your communicating these particulars to Count Haugwitz as from yourself and for his private information.

I congratulate you upon your brother's late brilliant action in the Mediterranean,‡ as well as upon the handsome panegyric addressed to yourself in the enclosed letter.§ If you continue to do so well there is little chance of your obtaining so speedy a release as you seem to expect, so that I shall have no opportunity of judging whether your patriotic or private feelings are the most predominant.—Y^rs^ my D^r^ S^r^, &c.,

ST. HELENS.

* Austrian Envoy.

† At this time England was preparing to assist the rising in La Vendée. It may be noted that the Count d'Artois was to have taken part in the Quiberon expedition, but was prevented by delays. He led a later English expedition in 1794, which effected nothing.

‡ *Query* Capture of French Frigate by Captain Wm. Paget. See *ante*, his letter of July 1 to Lord Uxbridge.—A. P.

§ See Lord Grenville's Dispatch of August 16.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord MALMESBURY, Frankfort.

BERLIN, 23 *August*, 1794.

MY DEAR LORD,—I had the satisfaction of receiving your very obliging and interesting letter of the 16th by the last Post, and I beg leave to return you my sincere thanks. I condole with you on the inactivity and want of energy, not to say worse, which seems to poison the operations of the armies on the Rhine,—one would really suppose that the Bon Dieu had entrusted the management of affairs to the Devil. You will have heard probably that the Russians have taken Vilna by storm, and I have since learnt that they have not left a living soul in the place, and such is Her Imperial Majesty's humane intention during the progress of the War—a system which if it has any merit, possesses it only when employed against Infidels and the French. It may on the one hand so intimidate the inhabitants of Warsaw as to make them a much easier prey—on the other, it may so exasperate them that driven to despair they may become a most desperate and enthusiastic enemy. I have it not in my power to send you any news from the North, as Whitworth's dispatches have of late come to my hands so very late on the post day, that I have never once had time to decipher them, and you know that this is an operation of some length. I am curious to know your opinion upon the late great events at Paris;* hitherto I have not heard of their having produced any particular change. It is to be hoped that there still exists a *parti* in the heart of the Convention, which, in proportion as Anarchy and Atheism are trodden down, will manifest itself.—Yours, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 14.] BERLIN, 23 *August*, 1794.

[*Cypher.*] MY LORD,—I am sorry to observe that that spirit of discontent and jealousy which has ever been prevalent among the Ministers and principal people of

* End of the Reign of Terror, execution of Robespierre, &c.

this Court, has in no instance manifested itself more strongly than in that of the subsidiary Treaty, where those who oppose it have probably no other motive than the unmanly resentment at its having been concluded without their assistance.

I think it my duty to make Your Lordship acquainted with the following circumstance, which, as it is possible that it has not come to Lord Malmesbury's knowledge, will not have been transmitted by him.

As soon as the circumstance of Mr. Struensee's Bills having been refused at Hambro' was made known to Count Schulenbourg,* he wrote a strong letter to the King, submitting to his consideration the unfriendly appearance of this operation, which he represented as a breach of the Treaty, and at the same time recommending to His Prussian Majesty to make an entire restitution of the subsidies and to turn his mind towards the conclusion of a separate Peace. I am sorry to say that this letter was well received, for the King immediately wrote to M. de Struensee to know whether the money had actually been employed, and whether, in that case, it could be refunded from the Treasury. This Minister's answer is plain, and his embarrassment was great at being under the necessity of exposing to the King his own Poverty, for he was obliged to acknowledge that not only the money which had been received had been disposed of, but that arrangements had been made for the application of that which was due.

The Marquis de Lucchesini is gone to Vienna—his journey causes serious speculations. Some say that it is on account of the ill state of health of his Wife who is there; others, in order to be on the spot during Lord Spencer's Negotiation; lastly and what I have from the best authority, that he is no longer in the King's favour, and that the cause of their quarrel is, his having given in a memorial upon the present state of affairs in Poland which it seems has given the greatest offence to the King. It is written in the strongest language and supposed to be drawn up by Prince Nassau with whom he is upon the best terms. [*Cypher ends.*]

* See despatch of August 26. Schulenberg posed as the patriotic Minister, treating Lucchesini, Hardenberg, and Haugwitz as strangers.

I have no particular news to transmit to Your Lordship from the Prussian army in Poland. The post of to-day has brought letters which mention that the Poles are again in possession of the Port of Liebau, after a considerable resistance on the part of the Russians, 1200 of whom occupied this place. In this action the Russian Commander lost his life. The Polish Army consisting of 10,000 Regular Troops and 20,000 armed peasants were on their march to Mittau. The Duke of Courland has taken refuge in Riga.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 15.] BERLIN, 26 *August*, 1794.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Dispatch No. 1 of the 16th Instant, and I consider myself as highly indebted to your Lordship for the very obliging manner in which you are pleased to communicate to me His Majesty's most gracious approbation of my conduct.

Feeling the importance of its contents, I lost no time in waiting upon Count Haugwitz, and as no other method occurred to me, by which I could so well fulfil the object of it, and at the same time convey the force and equity of the arguments, I thought it advisable to read your Lordship's Letter over to this Minister.

[Mr. Paget here gives some observations on the dispatch made by him to Count Haugwitz, and then proceeds:]

Count Haugwitz having listened with much attention to the perusal, and to the subsequent remarks I made, assured me in the strongest and most unequivocal manner of the entire persuasion he was under of its being His Prussian Majesty's most perfect Intention to continue his support, and to act up to the whole spirit of the Treaty. That the present critical state of affairs in Poland demanded his presence in that country, but that His return, which would not be retarded after the taking of Warsaw, would, he was convinced, facilitate and give a Spring both to the political and military operations in which His Prussian Majesty was engaged.

I have upon the whole, My Lord, reason to be satisfied with the result of this Conversation, and it would be doing an injustice to Count Haugwitz, were I not to impress Your Lordship with the Idea that he is entirely devoted, and constantly occupied in his endeavours to promote the Interest of the two Countries, which he considers as one and the same.

[*Cypher.*] I took this opportunity of reprobating in the strongest terms the late shameful conduct of the Russian Generals, and particularly of Count Kalkreuth* whose motive I did not hesitate to attribute to downright Jacobinism, and urged the necessity there was that the King should interfere in some shape or other. Count Haugwitz could not deny this position, and I know that he is using all his influence to engage His Prussian Majesty to leave Poland. He begged me to be persuaded that whenever this may happen that it would operate a change which he would venture to say, would in every respect afford satisfaction to His Majesty and His Ministers.

With respect to what I mentioned in my last relative to Count Schulembourg's letter to the King, he told me confidentially that no such letter had been written, but that Count Schulembourg had actually employed one of his creatures to sound His Prussian Majesty's sentiments; he also assured me that the King had been outrageous at the proposition, and even took this opportunity of declaring His determination to continue the War, and that He should never allow himself to suppose for an Instant that it was His Majesty's Intention to withhold his pecuniary succour.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 17.] BERLIN, 30 *August*, 1794.

MY LORD,—Count Haugwitz read to me this morning a copy of the note presented by Lord Malmesbury and Baron Kinckel to Mr. de Hardenberg,† and it gave me much satisfaction to find that the Verbal Communication

* See letter of Lord Malmesbury, August 16.

† Minister of King of Prussia since 1792. In 1793 he was with the army on the Rhine as Army-Administrator. He negotiated the Treaty of Basle, 1795. He was later one of the makers of modern Germany, and with Stein

I had already made on the subject of His Majesty's acquiescence to the Convention of Schwetzingen* was in exact conformity to the tenor of the above note. He assured me that he had lost no time in making his report of my communication to His Prussian Majesty.

Count Haugwitz acquainted me that promises had been given him with Your Lordship's Sanction by Lord Malmesbury, both at the time of signing the Treaty at the Hague, and afterwards at the Conferences at Maestricht, that the £100,000 stipulated in the 4th article of the above Treaty *pour les Frais de Retour*, should be paid as soon as any plan of operations should be finally agreed upon by the Plenipotentiaries, and begged that I would report this matter to Your Lordship, in order to know whether it would be agreeable to His Majesty that the above sum should be immediately remitted to this Court, in consideration of the late Convention between Duke Albert and Marshal Möllendorf. This I promised to do, but remarked that the Convention could only be considered as a temporary measure, neither had it been concluded in virtue of our own Treaty.

Official accounts arrived this morning of General Schönfeld's having gained a complete Victory over the Poles on the River Narew, in which the latter have lost 700 Men and their artillery. I take the liberty of remarking to Your Lordship the particular advantage attending this Victory.

Mr. de Madalinsky had, with a detached Corps of 3000 Men from Kosciusko's Army, crossed the Vistula with an intention it is supposed of passing the Narew, and by again recrossing the Vistula to have molested the Rear of the Prussian Army. This action therefore has been so well timed and so effectual that those of the above detachment who have not been killed or made prisoners are so dispersed that all uneasiness on their account is removed.

Your Lordship does not I trust attribute blame to me if my reports have been sometimes contradictory. Mr. Haugwitz shewed me this morning a letter mentioning

and Scharnhorst reformed the land laws, military organisation, finance, and education.

* See Mr. Paget's despatch of August 2, and Lord Grenville's despatch of August 18.

that Wilna had been taken only on the 12th, but that there had been no massacre, and that even the armed peasants had been suffered to disperse. But I know too many Instances of the Russian Method on similar occasions, not to doubt rather of this gentle Statement of facts. The heavy Artillery arrived at the Russian Camp from Breslau on the 23rd.

Detachments to the amount of 200 men of the Infantry, and from the Regiment of the *Gens d'Armes*, marched from hence to-day on their route to Frankfort on the Oder, the garrison of that place being under order to repair to the frontier.

From the Hon A. PAGET *to* Lord ST. HELENS.

BERLIN, *September* 2, 1794.

MY DEAR LORD,—As long as the circumstances exist, which have occasioned the Agreement between Duke Albert and Marshal Möllendorf, & to which His Majesty has very wisely given only a temporary acquiescence, I cannot with propriety make any stronger communication than I have hitherto done.

[*Cypher.*] But it would be highly satisfactory to me against the King's return to be furnished with clear and pointed Instructions. Those I am at present in possession of authorize me to menace, without acquainting me with the object, the non-compliance with which would oblige our Court to realise their threats.—I have the honor, &c., A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 18.] BERLIN, *2nd Sept.*, 1794.

[*Cypher.*] MY LORD,—I have very good ground for supposing that one of the principal objects of Mr. de Lucchesini's journey to Vienna, is to make some arrangements with the Emperor relative to the further dismemberment of Poland.

From Lord MALMESBURY *to* Hon. A. PAGET.

FRANKFORT, *Friday, Sept.* 5, 1794.

MY DEAR SIR,—As Matters are now brought to a point, and as no farther possible good can result from my remaining with the Prussian Army, it is my wish and intention, and to this wish and intention Lord Grenville subscribes, to return to England in the course of a week or ten days. Lord H. Spencer will receive orders to come to Berlin, and you will probably be at liberty to follow your own inclinations, which I confess I sincerely hope may be to remain in the line, as good and able men are much wanted, and without a compliment you are one and the other. I have literally nothing to communicate to you, but to subscribe to all you say in your last, and to join with you in agreeing that Indolence, Inactivity, and Knavery abound very much this year.

I received since I began this, yours of the 30th August. You have done a very essential service in speaking of the conduct of the Prussian Head-quarters in the way you did. It is impossible for it to be more disgraceful and barefaced. What Haugwitz said to you corresponds exactly with what Hardenberg says to me. Their view is now that things are going ill in Poland, and as the subsidy draws towards its end, to coax and smooth. The probable success of Lord Spencer at Vienna and the total failure of Lucchesini's journey also influences their behaviour, but they are not to be trusted, and if we are taken in a second time it is our own fault.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) MALMESBURY.

From Lord ST. HELENS *to* Hon. A. PAGET.*

HAGUE, *Friday, 5th Sept.*, 1794.

MY DEAR SIR,—I had not time to thank you by the last Post for your very obliging letter and to tell you how much I was edified by the manner in which you executed y^{r} late very delicate commission. I sh^{d} hope that that communication will have a proper effect at the

* See Lord Grenville's despatch No. 1, of August 16, to Mr. Paget, and his reply, No. 15, of August 26.

Prussian Head Quarters, and in the meantime I presume that no resolution will be taken with regard to the demand from Count Haugwitz which you report in your dispatch rec[d] this day, and which in the present circumstances is certainly, as you very properly hinted to him, most extremely unreasonable. L[d] Malmesbury writes me word that he has asked leave to return home, at which I am not surprized, as his present situation must be extremely irksome to him, and his remaining there must we fear be worse than useless if it be true, as he tells me, that in consequence of his different altercations with Field Marshal Möllendorff, his vicinity produces the same effect upon that General "as a red petticoat upon a Turkey-cock." You will have seen the last report from the Prussian army according to which there is little reason to hope that the Field-Marshal will undertake any thing considerable, which is the more mortifying as without the re-capture of Treves it will be impossible for the armies on this side to undertake any forward movement.

We received this morning the disagreeable news of the surrender of Valenciennes & Condé, neither of which appear to have made the slightest resistance. Their garrisons were disarmed, and are to be re-conducted to the Frontier under the condition that they are not to bear arms against the French during the present War. The Enemy will no doubt proceed at present to attack this country with their whole Force, and I think it probable that these attacks will be made on several points at the same time, and that their principal aim will be to gain possession of Maestricht. The Duke of York's army is at Berlikem near Bois le Duc, from whence it will not be difficult to establish a communication with the Austrians, and there is every reason to hope that in consequence of the late change in the command of that army we shall now act in perfect concert; but the adjustment of our plans must depend I fear upon those of the enemy.

As it has been found impossible to arrange the Count d'Artois' affairs so as to admit of his going immediately to England, it is probable that he will serve in the interim as volunteer with the D. of York's army. Mr. Sec[y] Windham is just gone to H.R.H.'s Head Quarters

upon a secret Commission, the object of which is possibly the negotiating some arrangement by means of which L[d] Cornwallis* may be joined to H.R.H. in his present command. I enclose to you two letters from H.R.H. to Their Prussian Majesties.—Y[rs] my Dear S[r], &c.,

ST. HELENS.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 19.] BERLIN, *6th Sept.*, 1794.

MY LORD,—A courier arrived yesterday morning with an account that, on the 31st, the Left Wing of the Prussians were again attacked by the Poles, and after a short but very bloody action, in which the latter it is said have lost 1000 men, they were repulsed. The Prussians had previously succeeded in making themselves masters of two additional Redoubts on the 20th.

Prince Poniatowski, after his failure on the 26th, was arrested as a traitor to his country, and it was with the greatest difficulty that M. Kosciusko succeeded in preventing his being immediately hung.

[*Cypher.*] Having heard from authority not to be disregarded that Marquis de Lucchesini had been absolutely charged with a commission from this Court to that of Vienna, to sound the sentiments of the latter upon the subject of the continuance of the War, and even to give it to be understood that Peace would be highly agreeable to His Prussian Majesty, I thought it my duty to lose no time in coming to an explanation upon this subject. I accordingly therefore waited yesterday upon Count Haugwitz and communicated the very serious intelligence that had come to my knowledge, and desired to know whether there was any foundation for it.

He declared to me in the most solemn and confidential manner that I had been misinformed, that Mr. de Lucchesini has been sent to Vienna to find out the object and result of Lord Spencer's journey, and secondly to engage the Emperor to order his troops now in Gallicia and the Palatinates of Lublin and Cholm to cross the Vistula, and added that he had failed in both these objects.

* He had been joined with Lord Malmesbury in the conference of Kirchheim-Bollanden.

I observed that there still existed a possibility that this Minister might have been sent upon some secret mission unknown to him (Count Haugwitz), and that it was impossible to answer for the conduct and insinuations of Messrs. Bischoffswerder, Manstein, and Lucchesini. He replied that it was true he could not answer for them, but, said he, "Je reponds du Roi Mon Maître," and added, "If what I have said is not true, you will soon have it in your power to reproach me for having made an assertion which has deceived you." He took this opportunity for repeating his former assurances.

Mr. de Danoff, the Prussian Commissary at the Austrian army, complains much in his private letters of the want of confidence he experiences on the part of the Austrians, and gives it as his opinion that were the French to attack that army they would fall back upon the Rhine.—I have, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 20.] BERLIN, *9th Sept.*, 1794.

[*Extract.*] The troubles in West and South Prussia are become so general as to cause much alarm here. Mr. de Seckerdy has been sent with a corps of 3000 Men in order to quell the Insurgents, and from the known determined and desperate character of this officer, great hopes are entertained of his success in restoring order and tranquillity in the Province of South Prussia.

[*Cypher.*] The following Intelligence has been reported to me as having been brought by the Courier who arrived last night from Poland. That the Empress of Russia in a letter to His Prussian Majesty has said that she hoped he would not think of pushing his conquests further, and that she therefore flattered Herself that He would abandon His enterprize upon Warsaw, and that She would take upon Herself to punish the audacious and disloyal conduct of the Poles in a satisfactory and exemplary manner. That upon this His Prussian Majesty sent Mr. de Manstein into Warsaw to treat for peace with Kosciusko.

From Lord MALMESBURY *to* Hon. A PAGET.

FRANKFORT, *Sept.* 14*th*, 1794.

DEAR PAGET,—Our suspension of the subsidy for the month of October has had a very strong effect here. I am at a loss to know how it will be taken at Berlin. I have softened it as much as I could in a note I have given in, but as Jacobi had actually made his reports it was out of my power to smooth it more. I have now made it rest on the Prussian Army being sent towards Cleves to co-operate with that of York. Pray tell me what Haugwitz says on the subject to you. The turn of the war in Poland is as disastrous as on this side, and the same want of energy and ability prevails everywhere.

I was without letters for several weeks, and really was decided to set out when I received Dispatches from Lord Grenville, which stopped me. I cannot now say when I shall depart, but I think my mission must soon end of itself. In the meanwhile we must stand by our guns. It is not a moment to leave our posts, and, disagreeable and even useless as we may be, we must clear our consciences from any imputation of neglect in this very serious and critical conjuncture. You may be quite sure if I get home before you I will press your return, but that is very doubtful. Mademoiselle Viereck* is certainly not handsome, but she is not stupid, and I rather incline to think well of her. Pray write again soon. You shall hear from me if I depart, perhaps even *see* me before I return home. But this is a very doubtful event and depends on circumstances.—I remain, &c., (Signed) MALMESBURY.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 23.] BERLIN, 16*th September*, 1794.

MY LORD,—The late retreat of the Prussian Army from before Warsaw, has given rise to various reports. That which has most generally gained credit is, that a

* She became the King's mistress. The matter was one of political intrigue.

Convention had been previously signed between the different parties, and that Messrs. Manstein and Bischoffswerder had visited the outposts of the Polish army for that purpose. Conceiving however that it would be highly satisfactory to Your Lordship to be acquainted with the real circumstances of the business, I hinted to Count Haugwitz that though it might be a matter of Policy, if this was the case, to keep it unknown to the Russian Mission, yet as my court stood in totally a different point of view, I thought myself entitled to ask him without reserve, if these reports were founded. Count Haugwitz expressed the greatest readiness to give me every information upon the subject, and assured me in the most positive terms that no convention or even conference had taken place, that unfortunately His Prussian Majesty had from the alarming insurrection in His own Provinces been under the necessity of retreating, but that with regard to any understanding between him and the Polish General he would take upon himself to contradict any such assertion. There is however a circumstance attending this retreat, which is worthy of remark, and which has with great reason created the above suspicions, namely, that from the time of raising the siege which happened on the 6th till the last accounts came away, not the smallest effort has been made by the Polish Army for molesting even the Rear Guard of the Prussians during their retreat.

Count Haugwitz took this opportunity of telling me in the most confidential manner, and begging me at the same time to communicate it to Your Lordship, that, having learned from undoubted authority that the Russian Mission in London had on a late occasion given it to be understood by the English Ministry, that a letter had been written by His Prussian Majesty to the Empress, setting forth how much the balance of power, and consequently their Mutual Welfare, depended upon preserving the integrity of France from the Encroachments of its enemies,—he had thought it his duty to make such a report known to the King his Master, and that he was in consequence now authorized to contradict in His Prussian Majesty's name that any such letter had been written.—

I have, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

A letter from Heilsberg in Lithuania mentions that a Russian Courier had passed that place in his way to the Prussian Head Quarters in Poland with a letter from His Imperial Majesty to the King of Prussia, and that the same Courier brought letters of recall for Prince Nassau. Whether this circumstance is in consequence of Prince Nassau's presence being required in Russia, in order to take the command of Her Imperial Majesty's Fleet, or what other motive I cannot yet ascertain.

[*Cypher.*] I am assured positively that the King will be at Berlin by the latter end of this month, but not till after His birthday. From the way in which Count Haugwitz mentioned it to me, I have some reason to suppose that His Prussian Majesty will proceed soon after to the Rhine. [*Cypher ends.*]

Generals Goetz and Elsener have been detached in different directions from the Grand Army, with a respectable force, in order to re-establish order among the Insurgents in South Prussia.

The Prussian Head Quarters are at Chrezonowice, 7 German miles from Warsaw.

From Lord ST. HELENS *to* Hon. A. PAGET.

HAGUE, 19*th Sept.*, 1794.

MY DEAR SIR,—I return you my best thanks for the pleasure of your letter of the 13th which I have just rec[d] with the accompanying Dispatches. The news contained in the letter of the raising of the Siege of Warsaw surprized me the more, as I confess that I expected to have learn't by this very post that Warsaw had surrendered, but I believe that in these times the safest way of guessing is to presume the direct contrary of what *ought* to happen according to all received modes and principles of calculation. Is there any reason to apprehend that the Polish Franks* will be sufficiently formidable to render necessary the detaching for that service any part of Marshal Möllendorf's army?

I send you a copy of the D. of York's last letter to Mr. Dundas containing his report of the late retreat

* *Cf.* Polish Jacobins in the despatch of Mr. Paget to Lord Grenville on August 2.

of the British army across the Meuse, a movement which, tho' perhaps necessary, has occasioned a great degree of alarm and uneasiness here; as the Frontier towards Brabant is now completely exposed to the incursions of the Enemy, who will probably soon begin to detach their flying parties into the very heart of this and of the neighbouring Province of Utrecht. I observe that you mention in your letter that this country is considered at Berlin as being now *out* of *danger*, but I assure you that the contrary is so much the case, that our condition is almost *desperate*; and such as to leave in truth hardly any other question than whether we are to die of a low fever or of an apoplexy. A vigorous and successful attack made by the Austrians on the corps of the Enemy now stationed at Tongres might perhaps enable us to rally again by saving Maestricht, but there is little reason to hope that Gen[l] Clairfaist * will muster up sufficient energy for such a *coup de vigueur*; not to mention that our arrangements with Austria are by no means in sufficient forwardness to entitle us to claim from them any such extraordinary exertion.

Adieu, my dear Sir, tho' I cannot disapprove of your resolution to quit your present post, I must again entreat and conjure you not to abandon us entirely.

Yrs most truly and faithfully, ST. H.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 24.] BERLIN, 20 *September*, 1794.

MY LORD,—Your Lordship will certainly have heard that the attack upon Treves is fixed to take place on the 24th Inst. The troops destined for the expedition began their March on the 18th.

The Austrians, who direct their March from Luxembourg, along the right bank of the Moselle are to be supported by General Blankenstein from Wittlich; and the Prussians who will act under the command or Generals Kalkreuth and Rüchel, will be assisted by Marshal Möllendorf who will in person direct their operations.

[*Cypher.*] This attack will take place under the most

* General in the Austrian Army.

sinister and unpromising auspices. There subsists a degree of jealousy and misunderstanding upon this occasion among the Generals of the different armies, which portend nothing favourable. The Austrians suppose that they will not be supported by the Prussians, while the latter on the other hand are under an apprehension that they are to be exposed, and bear the entire brunt of the Action.

Under these circumstances I cannot feel sanguine as to the event. And I know that the expedition is undertaken by the Prussians more as a matter of Conventional Form than with any Idea of Success.

An official Note has been given by this Court to Prince Reuss, the Imperial Envoy, demanding a succour of 20,000 Austrians, to be employed in South Prussia, in virtue of the Treaty of 1788.

The Refusal which this Requisition will certainly meet with, must I fear augment the Mutual Rancour of those Powers, and it is even much to be apprehended that his Prussian Majesty will in consequence withdraw His Contingent from the Rhine.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord ST. HELENS.

[Most Secret and Confidential.] BERLIN, *21st Sept.*, 1794.

MY DEAR LORD,—The subject of this letter is of that nature, that nothing but the most perfect confidence I have in your Lordship's Friendship, could make me incur the risk of committing myself on a matter of such delicacy.

It has come to my knowledge since yesterday, that a treaty of marriage is on the point of being concluded between His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the Princess Caroline of Brunswick.

The Friendship and Esteem I personally bear His Royal Highness, make it incumbent upon me, in my present situation, not to pass over this very interesting event in silence, and considering it in another point of view, namely, the very great importance attached to the marriage of the Heir Apparent to the Crown, I feel myself equally, if not more justifiable in the step I am taking. Uniting therefore these two mighty reasons,

I have come to the resolution of addressing myself to you, who from your situation in every respect, must possess great preponderance in the Counsels, and enjoy at the same time the friendly confidence of the Person above-mentioned.

I will not conceal from you then, My Lord, that this intelligence has given me the most serious uneasiness, and it is palpable that the Choice which (it appears) has been made, is the cause of it. I will not now take upon me to mention who have been the promoters of this Union, but this I will venture to say, that it has been undertaken by persons, who have had an interest, not perhaps in making this particular choice, but in preventing it's having fallen elsewhere.

Obvious reasons point out the necessity of not committing to Paper, the received character of the Princess above alluded to, and I am sure that Your Lordship is already too well acquainted with it, to make that necessary. I cannot however avoid saying this much, that I conceive it to be more calculated to ensure the Misery of the Prince of Wales, than promote His happiness, and at a future period the Nation's Welfare.

I question, feeling as I do the necessity of extending the Legitimate branch of the Royal Family, whether I would not even forego this necessity, rather than by submitting to it in this instance, form a connection, which may draw with it calamities which are unknown or at least forgotten in England.

But when an opportunity presents itself of bestowing on the Prince of Wales, a person in whom all the qualities are united that can render a woman eligible, as a Wife, a Mother, and a Princess, it has not been without the greatest surprize, sorrow, and indignation, that I have learnt that a treaty of marriage is concluding, by which His Royal Highness is so unworthily disposed of.

It will immediately occur to your Lordship that the Princess I allude to is the Princess Louisa of Prussia*—a woman in every respect worthy of so great an alliance, inferior to few as to the beauties of her person, and

* Louise Princess of Prussia, born 1776, died 1836, was the daughter of the youngest brother of Frederic the Great, Prince Ferdinand of Prussia, born 1736, died 1813, and his wife Louise Princess of Brandenburg Schwedt,

endowed with an understanding which in every scene of life is calculated to distinguish her. But your Lordship is personally acquainted with her, I will not therefore endeavour to continue a portrait which I should not perhaps do justice to.

I have hitherto considered this question rather in a domestic point of view. It is possible that His Majesty may not be disposed to enter into a further alliance with this Court, but as I can only look upon a Treaty of Marriage as a Covenant whereby two Courts are only nominally bound towards each other, I cannot admit this as an objection.

What I have said will sufficiently prove my entire aversion to this projected marriage, and if I could flatter myself that it would appear to you in the same point of view, I should feel perfectly secure that the representations you may have it in your power to make upon the subject would be attended with the success they deserve.

I will now, my dear Lord, conclude this matter by declaring to you most solemnly that I am (to make use of Junius's language) the sole depositary of my own secret. And you will I am convinced do me the credit to believe that I can have no other consideration in thus addressing myself to you than the Welfare and prosperity of the Prince of Wales and His future subjects.

For the sake of secresy and expedition, I shall send this by an Estafette to the Hague.—I am, My dear Lord, your very Sincere Friend and Servant,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 26.] BERLIN, 27 *September*, 1794.

MY LORD,—His Prussian Majesty arrived yesterday evening at Potzdam.

Thursday last being the anniversary of His Prussian Majesty's Birthday, the same was observed at Court, and in the evening there was a Ball and Court at the Queen's at which the Foreign Ministers assisted.

born 1738, died 1820. She married, in 1796, Prince Anton Radziwill. She was an excellent wife and mother, and was much respected and beloved at Berlin, where she lived. Her house was the centre of the best society, and the political men of the day were constant frequenters of her Salon.—A. P.

We have received accounts of the unfortunate retreat of the combined Armies across the Meuse.

As this retreat has made an entire change in the circumstances both antecedent to and existing at the time of the Convention of Schwetzingen, and has consequently dissolved that Treaty, I thought no time was to be lost in endeavouring to procure if possible some immediate assistance from the Prussians on the side of Holland. I accordingly waited yesterday on His Excellency Count Haugwitz. I stated to him that as long as the Circumstances should exist by which the Prussian army were bound to maintain themselves between the Moselle and Rhine that the Maritime Powers had sanctioned this Disposition, but that those circumstances were now at an end, or more properly speaking that the Convention was at an end. That by this Retreat Holland, and consequently our common Interests, became exposed to the Incursions and Devastation of the enemy, that the future danger, which I had represented on my arrival in this Country to be not far distant, had now actually come upon us, and that I saw no other means at this present moment of repelling it than by affording immediate Succour from this Country.

[*Cypher.*] Since Thursday I have seen Mr. de Haugwitz twice, and have been seconded by the Dutch Minister in the Representation I have made. I urged the absolute necessity that orders should be sent without the least delay to Marshal Möllendorf, to put His Army into immediate motion, and I did not leave Count Haugwitz till he promised me to lose no time either in seeing or writing to the King upon the subject. He told me, at the same time, that he thought it likely that the Marshal was already in possession of Instructions to that purpose.

The Imperial Minister has informed me that the Empress of Russia has requested that Count Cobentzl* might be furnished with Full Powers for concerting measures with Herself and the King of Prussia, for a co-operation in the War against Poland,† and that he is of

* Count Louis, who was sent in 1800 on a mission to Napoleon, returned in 1801, and succeeded Baron Thugut as Vice-Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs. His brother Philip was Austrian Ambassador in Paris during 1803-4.

† The Polish campaign of Suvaroff had opened in September.

opinion that in consideration of this concert, the Emperor may be inclined to comply with the requisition of this Court, a refusal of which will inevitably determine the King of Prussia to withdraw His Contingent from the Rhine. [*Cypher ends.*]

A Courier arrived last night from the Prussian Army on the Rhine, with an account of the Expedition against Treves having completely failed.

Marshal Möllendorf received advice on His March that orders had been sent to the Austrian Generals Nauendorf and Melas to desist from the attack. He at the same time received a letter from Monsieur de Clairfait acquainting him with the circumstances of his Retreat, and recommending him not to pursue his March.

In the meantime the Hereditary Prince of Hohenlohe attacked the French at Kaiserslautern, killed 2000, and made 2000 Prisoners, besides destroying the Magazines, Bake Houses, etc. etc. After this the different armies regained their former position which they now occupy.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 27.] BERLIN, 27 *September*, 1794.

[*Cypher.*] MY LORD,—Previous to His Departure, His Prussian Majesty received a Deputation from the Insurgents in South Prussia, who consent to the re-establishment of order and tranquillity throughout that Province, and to acknowledge the sovereignty of His Prussian Majesty provided redress to certain grievances shall be granted them. The King on his Part has promised this upon condition that they return to their duty with promptitude.

He also said that He promised them to appoint a Minister for that Department, who shall reside at Posen, and that Mr. de Buckholtz is the person fixed upon for this Employment.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

[On September 30, Lord Grenville forwarded to Mr. Paget a copy of his despatch to Lord Malmesbury. He writes :]

It will be unnecessary for me to add anything further, except to desire that you will, in any conversation you may have upon the subject with the Prussian Ministers, adopt the same language and mode of reasoning as that which Lord Malmesbury is directed to use.

(Signed) GRENVILLE.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to* Lord MALMESBURY.

[No. 27.] DOWNING STREET, 29 *September*, 1794.

MY LORD,—It was His Majesty's Intention, in consequence of the present state of affairs between this Court and that of Berlin, to have given to Your Lordship permission to return home according to your wishes, as the presence of a Minister of Your Lordship's Rank and character at Marshal Möllendorf's Head Quarters did not appear any longer likely to be productive of advantage.

But the late events which have happened on the side of Holland, having rendered still more urgent, the danger to which the Republic is exposed, it has been determined that one more effort should be tried, and that the business should so far be brought to a point, as either to induce the Prussians to act with energy and vigour in this critical situation, or at least to relieve this Country from the burden of an expense from which, if this effort should fail under such circumstances as the present, no adequate advantage could be expected for the future.

In pursuance of this resolution Mr. Jacobi has been informed that the Payment of the Subsidy for October will probably be suspended, as the Prussians have not only not complied with the true and evident meaning of the original Treaty, but have not even acted up to that engagement, the execution of which His Majesty had been willing, under the new circumstances which had arisen, to consider as being for the time and during the continuance of those circumstances, a Performance of the Treaty.

Your Lordship will hold the same language to Mr. Möllendorf. You will observe, that as long as the conduct of the Prussians continues the same as it has

been during the whole of this year, all inducement to His Majesty or to the Republic to contribute to the Expense of that Army must cease. You will dwell upon all the various arguments resulting from the present state of affairs, which ought to induce the King of Prussia to embark heartily and bonâ fide in the Cause of His Allies, and to co-operate with them for their security, for His own, and for that of all Europe. The danger of Holland, that of the Prussian Dominions in Westphalia, and the King of Prussia's actual situation with respect to Poland, are all of them grounds from which arguments of this nature may be drawn.

Unjustifiable as the conduct of Prussia has been in the whole proceedings on the Subject of Poland, it is not likely that any other Circumstances could have produced the King of Prussia's present Embarrassment in that Quarter except those which result from the late successes of the French, to which the Conduct of the Court of Berlin has so much contributed.

By the Treaties of Alliance, Great Britain and Holland had a right to call on Prussia for the stipulated succours; and the Republic has, under the present circumstance, a right to require that these should be augmentated to such an Amount as shall be sufficient for her defence. By the Convention of the Hague the Maritime Powers obtained the complete disposal of the Troops then engaged for, and what is now demanded, in return for the continuance of so immense a subsidy, is only that Prussia shall execute with good faith a third engagement which His Majesty has been willing to accept as a satisfaction for the two former.

His Majesty's Servants are not sufficiently informed of the effect of General Clairfait's late retreat to make it possible for them as yet to point out to Your Lordship a distinct object of operations to be required from Marshal Möllendorf.

It is possible that further information may enable me to write to Your Lordship more particularly on that point. In the interval, it will remain with Your Lordship to urge, in general terms, the adoption of a system of active and vigorous operations for the future in the manner best adapted to the immediate safety of Holland and to the success of the Common Cause; to recommend

such measures for that purpose as circumstances shall point out to you on the spot, and lastly, to give the strongest assurances that if such measures are even now bonâ fide pursued the King is willing to continue on his part to fulfil the late convention with the same punctuality and exactness which His Majesty has hitherto shown; but to give it also clearly to be understood that the Prosecution of such measures is the Indispensable Condition of any further payments from hence. . . . .

(Signed) GRENVILLE.

From Lord ST. HELENS *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

HAGUE, *Friday, 3rd October*, 1794.

MY DEAR SIR,—Lord Bacon advises us "to be wary in our dealings with Kings and Princes, for that their Reason (when they have any) is a different kind of Reason from that of other men,"—and the truth of this Maxim is without doubt most strongly confirmed by the Courtship to which you allude;* since tho', in a case like this of a pretty woman with an indifferent reputation, a man might naturally enough be so much captivated by the sight of her person as to be willing to marry her notwithstanding the stain on her reputation, it is in truth utterly inconceivable that he sh^d^ fall in love with her reputation only, and without having seen her person. I am afraid however that the engagement is too far advanced to be now dissoluble, and therefore we must endeavour to make the best of it, and to hush up all bad stories. The other young lady you mention is indeed a Jewel of the very first water, and *without* a *flaw*.

The situation of our affairs in this country is become considerably more unfavourable since I last wrote to you; and indeed we sh^d^ have been at this time in the most imminent danger, if the enemy after the taking of Crevecœur had availed themselves of the panic which that event produced on the opposite shore, and by means of which they might easily have passed both the Maas and the Waal, and so cut off the communication between this Province and the Duke of York's army. This danger is now less pressing, as we have had time to inundate

* See Mr. Paget's letter of September 21.

the low grounds in the W^ld^ of Bemmel and to fortify the Dykes; however the line of defence from Grave to Gertruydenberg is much too long to be guarded by the few Troops that the Republic can furnish for that purpose, and therefore if the D. of York sh^d^ delay his coming much longer, he may very possibly be forestalled by the enemy. He is still stationed in front of Nimeguen towards Cleves, and his immediate object is to engage Gen^l^ Clairfayt to undertake, in concert with him, some forward movement for the relief of Maestricht, but to this proposal the latter very prudently demurs, tho' he has consented at the Duke of York's instance to delay his retreat towards the Rhine at the risk of being attacked by the Enemy in his present position. The different divisions of his army are now posted as follows—2000 men at Roermond, 4000 between that place and Juliers, 2000 behind Juliers, 34,000 upon the Roer near Düren, and about 15,000 in different corps on his left Flank as far as Blankenheim. And the Enemy are encamped with 70,000 men at about two leagues from his Head Quarters on the road to Aix-la-Chapelle; so that it is not impossible that an engagement may by this time have taken place.

I do not find that Lord Malmesbury's leave of absence has as yet been sent to him; you will probably have seen his and M. de Kinkel's late (ineffectual) Memorials to Field-Marshal Möllendorff.

Mr. Windham has just been here on his return from the D. of York's Head-Quarters, and he has been assisting me in trying to inspire some vigour and energy into the people here; but it is a kind of *Sisyphean* Task, as the most trifling piece of bad news is sure to destroy in one instant the effect of a whole week's sermonising, and in truth tho' it be my cue to talk bold, I cannot in my conscience blame them for being afraid, as they are without doubt in most dreadful jeopardy.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord MALMESBURY.

[*Lemon Juice.*] BERLIN, *4th October*, 1794.

I really imagined from your last letter that you were only to remain a very few days longer at the Army,

otherwise I should have made a point of writing to you.

You will have heard that a requisition has been made to the Emperor by this Court to furnish 20,000 Men to be employed against the Poles in virtue of their Treaty. No answer has as yet been given but in case of a refusal, it is the intention of His Prussian Majesty to withdraw His Contingent to the Court of Vienna from the Rhine.

I have represented in strong terms that this measure cannot be taken without violating our Treaty, as the Prussian Army on y^e^ Rhine, inclusive of the Contingent, does not according to the calculations I have heard exceed 45,000 men, but Haugwitz has given me the most positive assurances that no step whatever will be taken by His Prussian Majesty without previously acquainting the Maritime Powers, and that every Regiment and Bataillon stipulated for in the Convention of the Hague will still remain, and that our subsidiary Army will only be diminished by the eventual casualties of the War. This I cannot exactly give credit to.

I find Haugwitz extremely uneasy at the mystery which is observed relative to the Negociations at Vienna, and at the ambiguous answer which has lately been given to the Prussian Minister in London relative to the continuation of the payment of the subsidy for the present Year.*

As I am kept totally uninformed, I have nothing to say for myself; in short, my dear Lord, I am most thoroughly sick of the manner of doing business in general, and of the business at large, and I wish most heartily to be released. I am neither of service to any body or doing credit to myself, and I hereby entreat you as a friend to do your endeavours to get me set at liberty as soon as Possible. I find also by Letters from Spencer at Stockholm that he remains perfectly in the dark as to his future destination.

Manstein, it is confidently reported, is sent about his business and is to have a place in the College of War; this looks as if Bischoffswerder was all Powerful.† I do

* Pitt suspended the subsidy early in October.

† Manstein depended entirely on Lucchesini, and was much opposed to Bischoffswerder.

not know how Haugwiz will keep his ground after the disgrace of his friend, but this I know that if he is dismissed there will be nobody for *nous autres* to do business with, but for the business we do this is hardly a consideration.

It is not known whether the King will remain here, or go to the Army, but I should be inclined to think the former.

They say that what occupies him most now are the charms of M-elle Viereck who is, or is to be immediately made a Countess; in my opinion she is d—— ugly—and they say stupid—"mais chacun à son goût."—Believe me, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord ST. HELENS.

BERLIN, *7th October*, 1794.

MY DEAR LORD,—You are doubtless acquainted with the Instructions which have been communicated to the Dutch Minister here, and my letters to the office by the return of his Messenger will inform you of the degree of success he has met with. I very sincerely lament (without taking upon me to assign the cause) the little cordiality, and I may say constant disagreement, which has existed between our Court & that of Berlin since the formation of the late Convention at the Hague—a convention which promised the best and most desirable effects. I will not however trouble you with a recapitulation of past misfortunes; let us in God's name turn our thoughts towards remedying the present evils. You are a better judge than myself how far the Marshal will be inclined to listen to the proposals which have been made; if he rejects them God knows what may be the consequences, but I should think they must be fatal. I understand, as I mentioned to you some days ago, that the payment of the Subsidy has been stopt. In this case I have little to hope, but I cannot help lamenting that this last extremity should have been adopted at a time when we depend upon these troops alone for the preservation of Holland, and when it is perhaps too late to provide other means of safety. In God's name, My Lord, if it is not too late, prevent this measure; it may

be fatal to us; at least let one more trial be made. I cannot positively answer for its success, but I will venture to say that without it all hopes from this Country must be given up.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 31.] BERLIN, 7 *October*, 1794.

MY LORD,—On Sunday morning, the Dutch Minister received an Estafette from Her Royal Highness the Princess of Orange,* which was followed by a Courier who arrived here yesterday morning, dispatched by His Serene Highness the Prince from Gorcum.

The first brought a letter from the Princess to His Prussian Majesty, painting in the strongest colours the present disastrous situation of Holland, and imploring His Majesty's immediate succour. The latter was also charged with a letter to the King, conceived in nearly the same terms, but specifying the numbers of Troops required to be from 10 to 12,000 Men.

Baron Reede immediately communicated to me the contents of these letters, and has informed me of the whole course of his Negociations.

As Count Haughwitz was called to Potsdam at a very early hour on Sunday Morning, (I should here observe that the Estafette arrived there late on Saturday evening with the Princess's letter to the King) the Dutch Minister did not see him till the evening, and after the arrival of His Courier, he was again with him yesterday afternoon for the space of four hours.

In the course of this conversation, the Subject in general and the demand in question was turned and argued in every possible point of view. The letter of the Prince of Orange—which in one instance implores His Prussian Majesty's protection in an appeal to his feelings as a Brother and a Father to one branch of the Family, and in the second, demands the stipulated succour in virtue of the Treaty of 1788—was supported in a firm and spirited manner by the Dutch Minister, but I am grieved to find that the result of these interviews

* Sister of Frederick William II.

by no means encourages him to hope that the demand will meet with that degree of success which the exigency and peril of the moment might lead one to expect.

He has received the most positive assurances of His Prussian Majesty's readiness to contribute His utmost efforts towards the preservation of Holland, but that at the distance He was from His Army He could not take upon Himself to order a part of it to be detached without previously consulting Marshal Möllendorf; that with respect to the Treaty of 1788, it appeared that as this Country was engaged in a War against Poland, the demand became reciprocal, and consequently null; that His Prussian Majesty would however immediately send a special Messenger to Marshal Möllendorf with instructions to act as the existing circumstances might require, not however to risk any measure which might oblige Mr. de Clairfait to quit his present position, and a Chasseur was for that purpose dispatched yesterday morning to the Field-Marshal, but these orders appear to be in such perfect contradiction one to another as to make them equivocal if not null—*vide* last page.

Baron Reede tells me that in course of his conversations with Count Haughwitz, he observed in him a degree of Reserve and Closeness, which even the most repeated expressions of Cordiality and Confidence could not mask. Your Lordship is certainly better acquainted than myself with the motive which can determine this Court upon measures in such direct opposition both to its Interests and those of its ally at this desperate and critical moment; but if I may be allowed to give an opinion, it is, that strong insinuations, not to say information, have been received, that the Court of London is averse to continue the payment of the subsidy. Count Haughwitz has more than once touched upon that subject with me, and I find that the secrecy which has been observed with respect to Lord Spencer's Negociations at Vienna has caused very perceptible uneasiness. A combination of these circumstances has created a suspicion that it is no longer the intention of the Court of London to connect itself with this country, which has probably excited in them the unfriendly disposition which seems now to declare itself.

Nothing then definite can at this moment be said to have been decided upon, relative to the important business. The future disposition of the Army appears now to depend solely upon Marshal de Möllendorf. The Prince of Orange has written to that General, and Mr. de Reede by the Chasseur dispatched yesterday, has also written to him.

In addition to the above, I will only allow myself to add that had the operations of the Prussian Army answered to the repeated assurances, and friendly protestations of this Cabinet, Holland would never have been exposed to the imminent danger which at this present moment seems to menace the total overthrow of that Republic. (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 33.] BERLIN, 9 *October*, 1794.

MY LORD,—In obedience to Your Lordship's directions I communicated to Count Haugwitz the Instructions with which I am charged, leaving no part of them unsaid. I felt authorized to give Assurances that whatever subject for complaint my Court might have at the past conduct of the Prussians, His Majesty was very willing to overlook it, and a greater proof could not be given than that His Majesty was now willing to continue His liberal Subsidy* upon condition that His Prussian Majesty would consent to the adoption of some efficacious measure, by an immediate disposition of His Troops, for the preservation of Holland.

I was most exceedingly surprised to find that Count Haugwitz received my communication with a want of cordiality and even coolness, which I have been perfectly unaccustomed to experience from that Minister. Instead of entering with any detail, or giving me any sort of light upon the subject, I found him reserved, and indisposed to argue the Question. He told me that he could not take upon him to say how far His Prussian Majesty would be inclined to listen to similar propositions, that he was informed that the Court of London had absolutely refused to pay the subsidy for the present month, and

* Lord Grenville had sent fresh instructions to continue the subsidy.

that consequently the Convention of the Hague was from that moment broken.

No one I observed ever could, and I was convinced ever would have it in his Power to accuse His Majesty of not having upon every occasion scrupulously fulfilled His Engagements. That His Majesty had, from the day of the signing of the Treaty to the present, shown every mark of complaisance and desire to continue His Friendship towards this Court, and as a Proof I appealed to the Note given by Lord Malmesbury after the convention of Schwetzingen. I observed that it was not a moment to give way to ill-humour, that the crisis was dangerous and demanded Union and Perseverance, and that I had it in my Power to do away all doubts as to the future, provided I met with reciprocal sentiments on the part of this Court.

We were interrupted after a short conversation, and Count Haugwitz took my communication *ad referendum*, after promising to see me to-morrow, and desiring me to demand an audience of Count Finck* for the purpose of making known to him personally the Instructions I have received from Your Lordship. It is therefore my intention to wait to-morrow morning upon that Minister.

It gives me much pain to say, My Lord, that I cannot forbode any good to be derived in the important business with which I am charged.

It seems that the refusal which is said here to have been made, relative to the payment of the Subsidy for the present month, has made such an effect, that I have too many fears that it will serve as a pretext to His Prussian Majesty for withdrawing His Army from the Rhine.—I have, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 34.] BERLIN, 11 *October*, 1794.

MY LORD,—I mentioned in my letter of the 9th that I intended waiting upon Count Finck the next day. I have now the honour of informing your Lordship that I had an audience with that Minister yesterday morning,

* Finck was one of the Ministers of the Foreign Department—a man of no influence.

in which I delivered the Report of Your Lordship's Instructions by Basilico.

After going into a detail of the business before us, I concluded by making a communication to the following effect: "That as the danger to which the Republic of Holland is exposed is every day increasing, His Majesty had determined to make one more effort in endeavouring to engage His Prussian Majesty to take some vigorous measure in defence of that Country; that His Majesty had therefore given orders to Lord Malmesbury at Frankfort to concert with Marshal Möllendorf some plan of operations for the accomplishment of this end. That if His Majesty finds the King of Prussia is disposed to enter bonâ fide into a third engagement, His Majesty on His part is willing to fulfil the late Convention of the Hague with the same punctuality and exactness which His Majesty had hitherto manifested; but that this was the only condition upon which His Majesty could be induced to continue His liberal Subsidy. That I therefore, in virtue of my Instructions, begged His Excellency would without loss of time lay the above before the King of Prussia; and that I flattered myself that His Prussian Majesty would immediately send orders to Marshal Möllendorf to act in perfect conformity to the above proposals."

His Excellency promised me to make his report accordingly, and assured me that no time should be lost in making known to me His Prussian Majesty's answer.

Since the arrival of Hislop, it has come to my knowledge that a Courier has been dispatched from hence this evening to Mr. Jacobi. I went immediately to Count Haugwitz and begged to know what was the particular object of this expedition, flattering myself that my conduct both public and private towards His Court and Himself had been such as to entitle me to this mark of confidence.

I observed that this question rather embarrassed him; he informed me, however, that the object of the instructions to Mr. Jacobi was to make known to the British Ministry that it was a point which could not be yielded here, that the Disposition of the Prussian Troops depended as much upon the King of Prussia as the payment of the

Subsidy depended upon His Majesty. These are nearly his words. It is in order not to delay the Messenger whom I should wish to be in England as soon as the Prussian Courier (particularly as I have the hopes of dispatching Basilico in the course of two or three days) that I think it my duty to acquaint Your Lordship in a few words of the above circumstance.

In the conversations I have had with Count Haugwitz I have uniformly found him persisting in the idea that by a suspension of the subsidy the Treaty is broken on the part of England. I yesterday answered him nearly in these words:

"I have never yet found an article in the Convention of the Hague which says that if the Subsidy is not paid at the beginning of the month that the Treaty is thereby infringed. It is manifest that hitherto His Majesty has acted with the greatest Friendship, Complaisance, and Punctuality in this respect towards this Court. My Instructions authorize me to assure you that His Majesty is as ready as he has ever been to continue his subsidy, provided He finds His Prussian Majesty willing to execute His engagements with that exactness, from which equivalent advantages may be expected for the enormous expense to which His subjects are exposed; that if it was His intention to persevere in this opinion, I must on my side necessarily suppose that His Prussian Majesty meant to seize this as a pretext for receding from His engagements."

I then accused Mr. de Jacobi of having represented the circumstances in a different light to what an impartial understanding would have suggested them.

The tenor of this as well as of my former Dispatches on the same subject, will I fear sufficiently prove that nothing is to be expected from this Court equal to what we, with so much justice, pretend. Count Haugwitz this evening told me that he hoped to communicate to me His Prussian Majesty's answer in the course of two or three days.

With respect to the orders said to be given for the detaching 20,000 men from the Prussian Army on the Rhine, I can get no satisfactory answer from this Ministry. If it has been done, it is by the King's orders,

as I can certify that no such have been issued from the College of War, and three weeks ago when General Güyzan advised this measure to the King, he received a severe reprimand for his presumption. By His Prussian Majesty's particular directions, Count Finck sent yesterday for the Baron de Reede to communicate to him a copy of a letter from Marshal Möllendorf, in which he informs the King of a proposal he had made to General Clairfait and Duke Albert to make a forward movement, and at the same time a general attack upon the enemy, and that at the moment this plan was sent for the approbation of the above Generals, the last retreat of Mr. de Clairfait took place, by which the operation was frustrated. This was no doubt meant to prove to Mr. de Reede the forwardness and activity of the Prussians.

The Imperial Minister has delivered an answer from the Court of Vienna to the Requisition lately made by that of Berlin. The whole amounts to a refusal. The Emperor sets forth that the defence of his own Dominions prevents his furnishing the required number of Troops as auxiliaries, and, by the Negociation now pending at Petersburg, he will become a principal in the War. The Note finishes by friendly assurances on the part of the Emperor, that nothing shall be wanting on his side to advance the cause of His Prussian Majesty in Poland.

A Deputation of three of the Principal Inhabitants of Bromberg furnished with passports from Madalinski, are arrived here; the above are charged to represent to His Prussian Majesty the danger to which that City will be exposed by His refusal to accede to the Proposition of the Polish General, which amounts to an exchange of Prisoners both Military and such as were employed in the Civil Line.

Permit me to congratulate Your Lordship on the very providential escape which, God be praised, His Majesty has happily effected from the guilty and impious Plot of His Enemies.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord MALMESBURY.

[*Lemon Juice.*] 11 *October*, 1794.

If you find the same degree of repugnance and ill-humour in the Field Marshal, that I experience here, our efforts will I fear be fruitless.

I have seen Haugwitz twice, but find him reserved, and undisposed to hazard an opinion. Jacobi has written them word that the Subsidy will not any longer be paid—they therefore look upon the treaty as broken.

I have on the contrary assured them that His Majesty was perfectly willing to continue the Subsidy provided this Court would in future execute more punctually its engagements.

My communication to Buckerstein and what he reports to the King is this. That as the danger to which the Republic of Holland is exposed is increasing, His Majesty had determined to make one more effort, by endeavouring to engage His Prussian Majesty to take some vigorous measures in defence of that Republic—that he had therefore given directions to Lord Malmesbury at Frankfort to concert with Marshal Möllendorf some plan for the accomplishment of this end. That if His Majesty found the King of Prussia ready to enter bonâ fide into a third Engagement, that he on his part was willing to fulfil the late convention with the punctuality and exactness which he had hitherto shown, but that this was the only condition upon which he could continue his liberal Subsidy,—that I therefore in virtue of my instructions begged His Excellency would without loss of time lay the above before the King, and that I flattered myself His Majesty would immediately send such orders to Marshal Möllendorf as were conformable to the above proposal.

I have used every argument which I thought likely to move them, but I cannot feel very sanguine as to the event. They insist upon it that from the moment the Subsidy is not paid the Treaty is broken, to which I have observed that there is no article that I know of in the Treaty which says that if the money is not paid the first of the month that the Convention is thereby broken—et que j'accuse M. Jacobi d'avoir fait

un faux rapport—and that if they really meant to persevere in this language, I must suppose that His Prussian Majesty seized this as a pretext for annulling the Treaty.

It is said that he has sent orders to Marshal Möllendorf to detach from 20 to 25,000 Men from the Rhine, who are to march towards Poland. This order, however, I can certify has not yet been sent to the College of War, and Haugwitz swears through thick and thin that the Subsidiary Army will notwithstanding remain as complete as possible.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[No. 3.] DOWNING STREET, 13 *October*, 1794.

SIR,—Your several Dispatches have been duly received, and laid before the King.

Nothing could be more proper than the representation which you made to Count Haugwitz, respecting the necessity of an active co-operation on the part of Prussia for the protection of the Dutch Republic, in consequence of the recent events which have occurred; and I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that your conduct on this occasion has been entirely approved.

As Count Haugwitz appears to have considered this matter in its proper light, it is to be hoped that the representations he engaged to make to the King of Prussia will be attended with effect; and that if orders to this purpose have not already been sent to Marshal Möllendorf, as the Count gave you reason to suppose might be the case, His Prussian Majesty may be induced immediately to direct the Marshal, to put the forces under his Command into Motion. You will not fail on every occasion to impress upon the Prussian Ministers the necessity of an immediate and vigorous co-operation with His Royal Highness the Duke of York and General Clairfait, as the only means of preventing the further progress of the French which must otherwise be attended with the most disastrous consequences, not only to the Republic of the United Provinces, but to all Europe.

That you may be enabled the more effectually to enforce

this important point, I lose no time in acquainting you that, upon the receipt of the news of General Clairfait having retreated across the Rhine, His Majesty was pleased to direct that fresh instructions should be sent to His Royal Highness the Duke of York, empowering him to propose to the Austrian and Prussian Generals such measures of co-operation for the protection of the United Provinces, as under the present circumstances may appear best calculated for that purpose. An immediate communication will be made by His Royal Highness to Lord Malmesbury of the necessary details of such plans as He may have to propose, which His Lordship has been instructed to impart to Marshal Möllendorf, and to enforce as strongly as possible. And His Lordship has also been directed to state to that General, that, in case he shall on the present occasion co-operate in the manner now desired in the Plans to be proposed to Him by His Royal Highness the Duke of York, His Majesty will consider such co-operation as an execution on the part of Prussia of the engagements entered into under the Convention signed at the Hague, and will continue the payment of the Subsidy to His Prussian Majesty for the remainder of the Year.

When you communicate this circumstance to the Prussian Ministers, you will not fail to represent it as an additional proof of His Majesty's earnest desire to contribute to the success of the Great Cause in which we are engaged, a cause in which it is evident that the Interests of the King of Prussia are more than ever implicated, and which calls for every effort on the Part of the Allied Powers, and for their most complete and active co-operation.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) GRENVILLE.

From Lord ST. HELENS *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

HAGUE, *Tuesday, 14th October*, 1794.

We have certainly been playing at cross-purposes both with Prussia and Austria. However, tho' the stopping the subsidy of the former may have been somewhat *penny-wise*, I really cannot bring myself to think that had it been continued she w^d^ have furnished us with

any effectual succour; as it stands to reason that if Marshal Möllendorf c^d not afford to detach hither any part of his army when it was in a manner unemployed, he would *a fortiori* have been incapacitated from doing it now that his Troops are so much wanted both on the Rhine and at home. Add to this, that it is by no means a part of the Character of the Prussian Cabinet to forego any substantial interest for the sake of *mere fancy;* and indeed even upon that ground they have no right to complain, as I observe that you continued to gild and sugar over the pill which you were directed to administer, so as to take off all its offensiveness. We must however leave this part to be debated by future Historians, for the only question is now whether, without any retrospect to the past, His Prussian Majesty will join his efforts to those of the King of G^t Britain for the salvation of this Republic, their common friend and ally, from that utter ruin and destruction with which it is now menaced, and should the court of Berlin resolve this Question in the affirmative and bestir themselves without a moment's delay in providing the requisite means for that voluntary purpose, you may safely assure them not only that the subsidiary payments will be continued as heretofore, but that the Convention of the Hague will be renounced for another year.

You are perhaps apprized that as to the former of these points the D. of York is authorized to treat directly with Marshall Möllendorff, but I augur no good from that negociation, as the Marshall will probably decline taking any material steps in it without consulting his Court; and indeed he has manifested from the first such a decided unwillingness to undertake the conduct of any operations in this direction, that should it be finally determined to furnish us with any Troops, it will be almost indispensable that they sh^d be commanded by some other Gen^l, as for instance M. de Knobelsdorff.

We received two days ago the news of the surrender of Bois-le-duc which appears, as far as we are hitherto informed, to have been no less shameful and infamous than that of Valenciennes & of Condé, as the place was well supplied, its works uninjured, and the garrison had sustained no loss worth mentioning. Pichegru com-

manded them in person and it is supposed that his next siege will be that of Grave, but there is some reason to apprehend that he will try to penetrate into Holland by a still shorter road, viz., that of the Bemmelee Wald or the Entre Maas and Vaal (*vide* the Map) for which purpose he is said to be arming a considerable number of large vessels which had unfortunately been left at Bois-le-duc. To oppose that undertaking we have a squadron of (Dutch) Gun Boats commanded by Admiral Melville, and about 10,000 British & Mixed Troops under Gen[l] Abercrombie, which with the help of the inundations will probably be able to make a stout resistance; but should they be overpowered the game will be at an end; for if the French Gen[l] once gets a footing on this side of the Vaal, a part of his force will be sufficient to make head against the Duke of York, while with the remainder he may overrun the whole of this Province. Notwithstanding this danger however, the D. of York's position, considered as the result of a choice of difficulties, seems to be the most eligible that he could have taken, as the Guelderland Frontier is certainly the weak side of the Republic, and as such is menaced with an attack from the principal army of the Enemy, which is that under Jourdan, that has been hitherto employed in facing the Austrians. We know nothing at present of the movements of the latter, but I am afraid we shall hear of them but too soon, as since Clairfait's retreat the way is perfectly open to them. You will easily suppose that the consternation here is extreme, and a considerable number of the most opulent Families have already taken flight to Germany & England.—Y[rs] ever, my Dear Sir, most truly and Faithfully, ST. HELENS.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to* Hon. A. PAGET.

[Private.] DOWNING STREET, *Oct.* 14, 1794.

SIR,—I have received your letter marked *private* of the 4th Inst. with its inclosure.

I cannot omit this opportunity of expressing to you in an unofficial form what I have so frequently had

occasion to say to you ministerially of the very great satisfaction which your conduct at Berlin has given here.—I am, &c., GRENVILLE.

From Lord ST. HELENS *to* Hon. A. PAGET.

HAGUE, *Wednesday night, 15th October*, 1794.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have nothing to add in the way of publick news from hence to what I told you in my letter by yesterday's Post, but I have to acquaint you, *in strict confidence*, that our Gov^{t} being at length become sensible that the want of a common centre of Command and Direction has been one of the leading causes of the misfortunes of the present Campaign, have determined to invite the D. of Brunswick to assume the chief command of the whole allied Force, and the sole direction of the military defence of the Republic. You will of course be so good as to keep this secret *entirely* to yourself, as this proffer has not yet been made to the Duke, and it w^{d} be by no means fitting that he sh^{d} hear of it beforehand thro' any other channel. Our people at home seem to think they have done wonders by determining to call in this new Doctor, but I rather think that they w^{d} have done better by sending for the undertaker.

A seditious petition signed by several Hundred persons was presented Yesterday to the Regency of Amsterdam, requesting that no cutting of Dykes to let in what is termed the grand inundation, nor any other means or ordinary and extraordinary way be used to defend that place sh^{d} it be threatened by the enemy. No notice will be taken of this paper which is in truth too full of absurdities and falsehoods to make any impression on the better sort of people; but it shews how many adherents the enemy have in that city, and how active they are in disseminating their opinions.

The idea stated in the *interlineations* of y^{r} private letter of the 30th post will be highly deserving of attention in case of H.P.M$^{y's}$ *suspiscency*, but sh^{d} he persist in withdrawing his troops, his having full employment for them in Poland would be rather advantageous than otherwise, by preventing them from doing mischief elsewhere. Gen^{l} Clairfait continues to

speak us fair, and he has at the D. of York's request sent a large detachment to Ruysbourg and towards Orel in order to keep up the communication with H.R.H.'s army; however in the main his motions are still very equivocal, and you may be assured that no arrangement has as yet been concluded between our Court and that of Vienna. Indeed L^d^ S. & Mr. Grenville were to set out from thence on the 8th and 9th having as it sh^d^ seem convinced themselves that their longer stay would not answer any useful purpose.

I believe that P. M. Eden declines going to Madrid & wishes to go back to Vienna.—Y^rs^ my D^r^ S^r^ most truly & entirely, ST. HELENS.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 35.] BERLIN, 16 *October*, 1794.

MY LORD,—With the exception of a very few individuals this Country is utterly averse to the continuation of the War against France, but hitherto it has been at the risk of incurring the King's Disgrace that a Negotiation for peace has been advised. I am nevertheless convinced that there exist responsible people under this Government who deserve the most injurious imputation.

I have in general found this Ministry extremely cautious and fearful of committing themselves on the subject of renewing their engagements towards England, and had I not positive proof of the contrary, I should imagine from the very unconfidential and cool manner in which they have treated this business with myself that they felt perfectly indifferent as to the event. Part of their conduct indeed I must attribute to Ignorance as well as reserve, for when I asked Count Finck last night what instructions had been sent to Baron Hardenberg in answer to the communication made by Lord Malmesbury, he replied he knew nothing of the matter.

With respect to Count Haugwitz it is thought, and seems by no means improbable, that the unsuccessful Issue of His Treaty has very much lowered him in the esteem and confidence of the King; his language is so perfectly unmeaning and inconclusive as to authorize that conjecture.

The result, My Lord, of this important business appears to be that, although the King of Prussia is now highly offended at the affront which the Suspension of the Subsidy, and the Imputation of being in Intelligence with France, has put upon this Country, yet that he will not be so blind to His Own Interests as to refuse the Mediation of Holland, in case His Majesty should think proper to accept it. It is possible that the very fair proposal I made by Your Lordship's Instructions might not have been rejected had not Mr. de Jacobi written to this Ministry, informing them that your Lordship had, after the departure of Basilico, a second time declared in your most formal manner that the payment of the Subsidy had been stopped.

It is with very great concern that I find that the first important negotiation with which I have been charged has been so entirely frustrated. Your Lordship will not I hope consider me as responsible for this failure, my conduct throughout has been such as I judged most likely to advance the Interests and preserve the dignity of the King my Master.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord MALMESBURY.

[*Lemon Juice.*] BERLIN, 20 *Oct.*, 1794.

I have little to say in addition to my last. I saw Haugwiz yesterday, and told him that since seeing him last, we had both of us had time to reflect upon the disastrous consequences which seem likely to result from the misunderstanding of our Courts, and that I really trusted that he would exert himself in endeavouring to put matters once more upon a friendly footing—that on my side, I would pledge myself most solemnly that, if the King of Prussia would make one more effort and send immediate orders to M. Möllendorf to concert a plan with y^r L^p. for an effectual co-operation His M^y would not only immediately pay the Subsidy for y^e present month, but continue it till the end of the Year, and I even hinted that this measure might be a motive for His M^y to renew the Treaty.

Haugwiz after many phrases, &c. &c., told me that no

consideration whatever would induce H.P.M^{y} to listen to any proposal till the Subsidy for the present month was actually paid—talked about the K. of P.'s honor being at stake, &c. &c.; in short all I could get out of him was "Eh bien payez les subsides, et ensuite nous parlerons."

All this however is much more reasonable than when I saw him last, for then I could get him to listen to nothing.

I am very well convinced that the K. of P. is most exceedingly vexed at this present conjuncture, and is perhaps the only man in the dominions who wishes *heartily* to prosecute the War—the Channel thro' which I have it is not to be doubted. In short it remains now to be seen whether we shall risk one more £150,000; but what chagrins me is that the month of Nov^{r} is fast approaching, and we shall then have the same battles to fight over again, for at the beginning of every month they have as regular alarms as the moon has changes.

I am perfectly of y^{r} way of thinking that it is right to stand by our guns in this desperate conflict—if you sh^{d} come here, I hope we shall return to England together. . . . .

P.S.—Since the arrival of y^{r} message I have been with the Ministers, and I have the satisfaction to inform you that I have found them much more reasonable & better disposed than I expected—and I really flatter myself that we shall tho' late be able to do something.

You may rely upon hearing from me soon, I have not time for more at present, as I shall be too late for the Post.

From Lord MALMESBURY *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

FRANCFORT, *Thursday, October* 23, 1794.

SIR,—I enclose you a Copy of a Dispatch I received from Lord Grenville on Monday last. It was brought me by Lieut.-Col. Don with Letters at the same time from H.R.H. the Duke of York, the Substance of which was, either that Marshal Möllendorf should make some forward Movement for the purpose of raising the

Siege of Maestricht and the protection of Venlo, or else detach from his right a Sufficient Corps down this side of the Rhine to enable General Clairfait to increase that he has sent to support the Duke of York's left.

You will perceive that if either of these Movements are agreed to the Suspension of the Subsidy is to be taken off, and that it will be continued to the expiration of the Treaty.

Lieut.-Col. Don. has been to the Prussian Head Quarters; but altho' he executed his instructions with great Address, he could not obtain the Object he wanted —he however collected from M. Möllendorf's Conversation, that in the dislocation of the Army, as it was now ordered, a body of 15,000 Men, commanded by Gen. Kalkreuth, were to move towards Westphalia.

Altho' this measure bears no reference to any interposition of Ours, yet as it is favourable to Our Views, I held it expedient to make one more attempt to prevail on the Prussians to act up to the Sense of the Treaty; and this Morning Baron Kinckel and myself have given in the inclosed Note. The reply we have had from Baron Hardenberg is precisely the same as that we received from him to Our Note of the 11th, which I also inclose, viz., that he would lay it before the King, but could give no Answer 'till he had received his Commands.

My reason for the Sending you one of my Servants with this is, that as now the event of all Our Representations depends on what is determined on at Berlin, You may be accurately and early informed of what we have been doing, and not receive your information thro' the tainted Medium either of M. Jacobi or M. Schulenburg.*

Your Judgement and Knowledge of what is passing at Berlin may point out to you the way the most likely to attain the End we wish—which is either to receive in return for our large Subsidy a reasonable Equivalent, or if that is refused to us to be exonerated from the heavy burthen it imposes on us—If we are to give credit to the language of the Marshal and his Adherents the King of Prussia is outrageous and puts no bounds to his Anger;

* Then acting as Governor (and apparently an arbitrary and despotic one) in Frankfort, which had been put under military Prussian rule.

but if that of Baron Hardenberg is to be relied on the contrary is the case, and He is desirous of keeping faith with us and of not breaking the Treaty.

The Marshal declares the Treaty to be broken, will not listen to any thing we say, and he even goes so far as to say the Military Convention of the 26th July and it's Secret Article are also null and void by Our Suspension of the Subsidy, altho' these were his own Acts, on which neither my Colleague or myself were consulted 'till they were actually concluded on.

You will see by Our Notes that we never have declared the Treaty as broken, that we made our Suspension of Subsidy rest on the most reasonable Conditions; and I cannot believe if the whole were fairly and candidly stated to H.P.M., that he could be so full of resentment as M. Möllendorf describes him to be.

You may I think very safely enter fully on this Subject with Count Haugwiz; and endeavour to soften the embittered & exaggerated reports M. Jacobi makes from London; and not hesitate telling Count Haugwiz, if he will prevail on his Master to comply with what we now demand, no interruption either of good harmony, or what is more to the purpose of Subsidy, need take place between the Two Courts—and he must either have lost his power or his Memory if he does not endeavour to support you on this Occasion.—I have the honour, &c.,

MALMESBURY.

LES SOUSSIGNÉS, Plénipotentiares de Sa Majesté Britannique et de Leurs Hauts Puissances Les Seigneurs Etats Généraux des Provinces Unies, viennent de recevoir des Ordres de renouveller leurs instances auprès de S.E. M. le Baron de Hardenberg, pour que l'Armée commandée par S.E. M. le Maréchal de Möllendorf soit employée de Manière à pouvoir porter un Secours prompt et efficace à la Republique des Provinces Unies, dont la Situation devient d'un Moment à l'autre plus critique et allarmante par les efforts des Ennemis, et par les Progrès rapides qu'ils font malheureusement depuis plusieurs Semaines.

Dans toutes les Notes qu'ils ont dejà remis à S. E. Successivement depuis la Signature de la Convention du 26° Juillet, Ils ont invariablement appuyé sur la neces-

sité de cette démarche, et c'etait avec une peine sensible qu'ils ont vû que leurs représentations, jusqu'à present, pour la faire effectuer ont été infructueuses—Le Traité signé à la Haye le 19° d'Avril de cette Année entre les Puissances Maritimes et la Cour de Berlin n'avait pour bût que d'assurer aux premières la Co-opération cordiale d'une Armée aussi formidable que celle de S.M.P. ; et il est peu nécessaire de dire que cette Consideration Seule avait pû les determiner à se charger d'un Subside aussi fort que celui qui a été stipulé par ce Traité.

Les Instructions les Moins equivoques de leurs Souverains leur imposent actuellement le devoir de requérir cette Co-opération avec toute l'Urgence que les Circonstances du Moment, et le danger imminent dont leurs intérêts les plus intimes Sont Menacés, exigent :—Ils le font avec d'autant plus de Confiance, qu'il est manifeste que ces intérêts sont inséparables de ceux de S.M.P. ; tant à l'égard de la défense des Etats de sa propre Monarchie, qu'à la Conservation d'un Systême dont Elle s'est declaré si souvent le Soutien, et dont Elle a reconnu que la Tranquilité, la Sureté, et le Bonheur de l'Europe entière depend. C'est pourquoi les Soussignés ne doutent pas que S.E. M. le Maréchal de Möllendorf, réconnaissant l'importance de la Crise actuelle, et admettant la force de leurs Arguments, aura égard à leur réquisition, et ne hésitera pas de faire les dispositions, pour que l'Armée sous ses Ordres se porte avec la plus grande Célerité là où elle pourra co-opérer conjointment avec celles commandées par S.A.R. Msgr le Duc de York, et S.A.S. Msgr le P. d'Orange, à la défense de la Republique des Provinces Unies.

Il sera superflû d'observer que la grande Armée Autrichienne ayant passé le Rhin, la necessité de défendre la frontière le long de ce fleuve, où l'Ennemi est dejà si denué de force, ne pourra desormais offrir un Motif admissible d'y retenir encore celle du Roi.

Les Soussignés Manqueraient à cette franchise dont Ils se font un devoir vis-à-vis de S.E. M. le Baron de Hardenberg Sils Lui dissimulaient, que si ces nouvelles instances pour obtenir de l'Armée Prussienne l'Utilité que le Traité Leur donne lieu d'espèrer venaient à manquer, Ils ont raison de croire que leurs Souverains, motivés par le

Ménagement avec lequel Ils doivent employer leurs ressources pécuniaires, n'ecouteront que les principes que ce devoir imperieux Leur prescrit; et se verront dans la Nécessité absolue de devoir suspendre l'Acquittement ultérieur des Subsides mensuels.

M. le Baron de Hardenberg sentira avec eux que cette Suspension devient une Mesure de Prudence, et que les Puissances Maritimes ne receuillant, de Leur Coté, aucun Avantage des Stipulations du Traité, ne peuvent trouver aucun Prétexte de continuer à charger leurs sujets d'une imposition aussi onereuse.

Les Soussignés sont toutefois autorisés à déclarer, et Ils se font un Plaisir de le declarer de la manière la plus prononcée, que dans le cas que l'Armée Prussienne, même dès à present, sera employée avec Energie, et d'une Manière conforme aux Intérêts des Puissances Maritimes, elles continueront avec la plus grande Exactitude, à remplir les Engagemens pris avec Sa Majesté le Roi de Prusse, (Signé) MALMESBURY.

À FRANCFORT, ce 11e *d'Octobre*, 1794. KINCKEL.

From Lord MALMESBURY *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

FRANKFORT, *Oct.* 23, 12 *at night*, 1794.

I have written to you a long letter in the shape of a despatch in order that if, in consequence of anything I write you should do wrong or contrary to the ideas at home, it may stand on record against me, & you be acquitted before God & man.

You will be so good as to send my servant back as soon as possible, as I am in great want of him & as I am also impatient to a degree to hear what is really the situation & temper of your Court. I have great hopes it will all come round & that the measure we have adopted with more rashness than wisdom, in my mind, may notwithstanding produce a good effect,

I am apprehensive, & have good grounds, that Reede is doing mischief. He never has forgiven his own blundering and selfish conduct at the outset of this business, & by having excluded himself on this account from any share in it, he now wishes to thwart it in every way he can.

I had once thought of coming post haste to Berlin, but, besides the feeling that the whole was perfectly safe in your hands, I was doubtful about the taking a step which looked like courting the King of Prussia for what we had so just a claim to demand as a right.

Pray my dear Paget be long detailed in your answer. I have written to-day especially to ask that my mission may be put an end to in case Prussia continues to persevere in its refusal, indeed it may be said to end itself & to be burning out while I am left like a desperate Capt on board till the ship is consumed to the water's edge.

Pray tell me who is in favor at Court—whether Haugwiz or Bischoffswerder, or both—whether the Countess Viereck is no longer immaculate, & whether the Princess Louisa is a mother. My love to the new Countess Bruhl.—Ever y^r^ most truely and sincerely,

MALMESBURY.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[No. 4.] DOWNING STREET, 24 *October*, 1794.

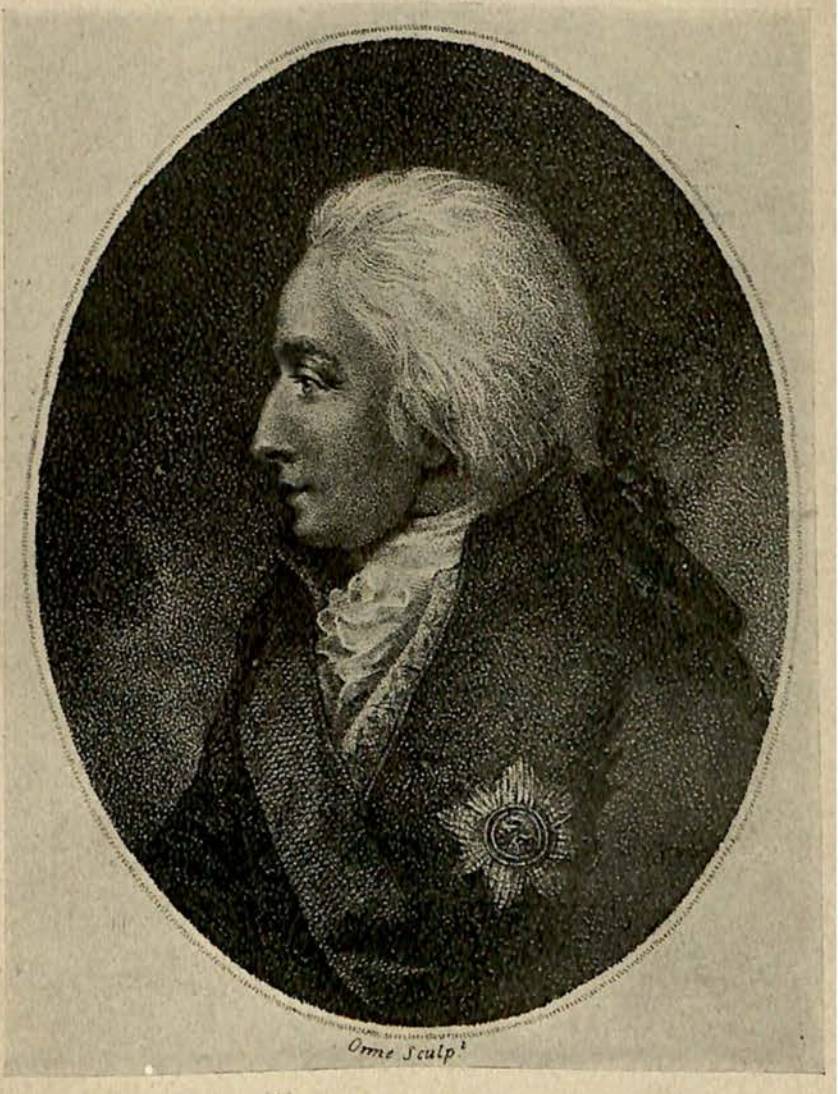
SIR,—Your several Dispatches to No. 34 Inclusive have been duly received and laid before the King.

I send you enclosed the Minute of a Conference which I had yesterday with Baron Jacobi, in which that Minister made to me a verbal Communication of the Orders actually given by the King his Master to withdraw His Army from the Rhine.*

It is wholly unnecessary for me to enter into the discussion of the different arguments by which this resolution is attempted to be defended by the Court of Berlin. You are sufficiently acquainted with all that has passed to be able to prove unanswerably that the King has, on His Part, gone far beyond what Good Faith would have required in the performance of the Convention of the Hague, and that the conduct of Prussia has been such as to evince the most settled determination to elude all its engagements.

The whole conduct of the King of Prussia on this occasion has been felt by His Majesty with great

* On this same day the Prussian army crossed the Rhine, withdrawing to Hochheim.



LORD MALMESBURY

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concern, and it is certainly matter of much regret that the King of Prussia should have been induced to take such a step as that now notified to His Majesty, at a time when the general Interests of all Civil Society required a very different line of Conduct on the part of all the Governments of Europe, and when the danger of the States General more particularly called upon His Prussian Majesty by every consideration of policy, as well as good faith, to exert Himself in their Cause. . . . .

(Signed) GRENVILLE.

[MINUTE.]

October 23, 1794.

This day M. Jacobi, after a few words of preface mentioning his own concern at the Communication with which he was charged, read to me, by Order of his Court, a Dispatch from the King of Prussia to him. It contained in the first part expressions of surprise at the resolution taken to suspend the Subsidy. It stated that this resolution was not justified by the Alleged Inactivity of Marshal Möllendorf's Army; as that officer had completely fulfilled the Convention of Schwetzingen, which had been accepted by the Maritime Powers as a Performance of the King of Prussia's Engagements; and as the late victory of the Prince de Hohenlohe proved the Zeal with which the Prussian Army had acted in the Common Cause. The King of Prussia then proceeds to say, that, by the terms of the Convention of the Hague, He had a right to Participate in any new Concert for the Employment of that Army before any definite Resolution had been taken upon the subject. He disavows the Reports which had been circulated of his having concluded any Separate Peace with France, and then proceeds to direct Mr. Jacobi to communicate here the orders actually given to Marshal Möllendorf to collect his army, and to march them back towards the Prussian Dominions, where, he says, their presence is necessary to enable Him to repress the Spirit of Insurrection, which the Convention has excited against Him in Poland.

When Mr. Jacobi had finished reading this Paper, he stopped as if waiting for an answer. I only told him

that I should make my Report to the King of this communication; and he proceeded to speak of other matters for a few minutes, after which our conference ended.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Count HAUGWITZ.

BERLIN, *Oct.* 25, 1794.

MONSIEUR LE COMTE,—Ayant mûrement reflechi à la chose, tant auparavant que depuis l'entrevue que je viens d'avoir avec V.E., je m'empresse de Vous réiterer, M. le Comte, la persuasion dans laquelle je suis, que Votre presence à Potzdam ne laissera pas non seulement de faciliter la démarche que je viens de faire, mais de prévenir un delai qui pourrait avoir des suites si facheuses dans un pareil moment de Crise.

Il ne sera pas deplacé que j'observe ici, que la Nature de la Proposition que j'ai recommandée a V.E. pour etre soumise aux yeux du Roi, est en elle-même calculée à prevenir tout obstacle aux mésures ultérieures à prendre entre nos deux Cours, et c'est cette conviction qui me porteroit à prendre sur moi d'expedier les ordres pour le paiement des subsides—Demarche au reste, que je me plais à croire sera approuvée par le Roi Mon Maitre.

C'est penétré de cette Idée, que j'ai l'honneur de prier très instamment V.E. de vouloir bien se rendre auprès du Roi dans le courant de la journée de demain, vû que je suis intentionné de retarder l'expedition de mon Courier, jusqu'à ce que Sa Majesté voudra bien donner une Reponse au Rapport que V.E. compte Lui faire.

Il ne me reste qu'à donner à V.E. les assurances les plus fortes, que ce n'est que mon zèle et mon attachment à la Cause commune, qui peut m'avoir engagé à Vous offrir mes Idées, persuadé que Vous Mr le Comte partagez entièrement mes Sentimens à cet Egard.

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From Lord ST. HELENS *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

HAGUE, *Monday Night, 27th October,* 1794.

The natural inference from L[d] G.'s despatch to you & from its enclosure seems to be that the Convention between us and Prussia, or at least that link of it that

was formed by the Hague Convention, is totally broken; and that in consequence His Prussian Majesty will now do what the signature of that Treaty prevented his doing 6 months ago, viz., withdraw his Troops entirely from the Vicinity of the Seat of War, and leave the French at Liberty to overrun all the Countries bordering on the Rhine, including these Provinces as well as his own Duchy of Cleves; while we, on our part, are perfectly prepared to meet the consequences of this conduct whatever they may be. I agree with you however in thinking that as it is not the interest, so it cannot be the wish of either party that matters sh[d] be brought to this extremity, and therefore that M. de Reede's plan of forming a new subsidiary engagement, upon a more contracted scale, both as to its objects and as to the Quantum of Troops & money may very probably be brought to bear. I forwarded to England a few days ago a regular project to that effect, the author of which, tho' he wishes to have it considered as anonymous, is no less a personage than his ducal Highness of Brunswick; and his idea is in substance that all the Prussian Troops now under Marshall Möllendorff, over and above the 20,000 which are to be recalled into Silesia, shall immediately march to the Lower Rhine, be put under the command (in chief) of the D. of York, and be employed in defending this country & the Duchy of Cleves: Clerfayt keeping his present position and extending himself from Dusseldorf to Coblentz,* in which neighbourhood the D. of Saxe-Teschen's cordon is to commence, and with the assistance of different detached corps of Imperialists reach as far as Strasbourg. Sh[d] this plan be relished I think it highly probable that H.P.M. will be disposed to substitute his own name in lieu of that of the Duke of York; but otherwise, or, at any rate, till he receives an answer to it, I am pretty sure that he will withhold his consent to the proposal to him to that effect which we have just sent by Wm. Eliot & Gen[l] Bentinck.

I believe Trypen wrote you word by the last post of the unfortunate affair of the 19th near Nimeguen in

* The Austrians, however, had already evacuated Coblentz on the 21st, and retired to Ehrenbreitstein.

which was lost almost the whole of the 37th Reg^{t} (only 57 escaped) together with a considerable number of light Troops belonging to other lands; a misfortune which tho' in itself of no very material consequence, is extremely heartrending from the circumstances of it, the lives of these poor men having been absolutely sacrificed thro' an inconceivable series of omissions and blunders, not to mention that had there been any kind of soldierlike management in the previous dispositions the result of the business must have been as honourable as it proved to be disastrous.

L^{d} Spencer and Mr. Grenville were here yesterday on their way to England having quitted Vienna *re infecta;* at least I c^{d} not find from their conversation that they had brought matters to any positive conclusion. Clerfayt however continues to co-operate with us, and has at the Duke's request, fortified the corps which extends from Dusseldorf to Waal so as to increase its Sum Total to about 15,000, in consideration of which the D. has paid him the remainder of the £150,000.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord ST. HELENS.

[Copy.] BERLIN, *Wednesday Morn., 2 o'clock, 28 Oct.,* 1794.

MY DEAR LORD,—If the circumstance should not already be known to you, I can inform you in confidence that it is apprehended that it is the intention of the Court of Vienna, in case Marshal Möllendorf should quit his present position to fall immediately upon Bavaria.

This is supposed to be Lacy's* Plan, who is for abandoning the Low Countries, & seeking an indemnification by the above means. This is all I know at pres^{t}.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 38.] BERLIN, *28 October,* 1794.

MY LORD,—I did not fail, upon the receipt of Your Lordship's Instructions, to wait immediately upon the

* A General, of Irish nationality, now nearly seventy years old: ten years later he was commander of the Russian force in Naples.

Prussian Ministers; and Count Finck, to whom I made my formal communication, sent for me the day before yesterday in order to transmit to me His Prussian Majesty's Answer, which was as follows:

"The suspension of the Subsidy stipulated in the late Convention of the Hague, was the more unexpected, and struck the King the more forcibly, as it happened at the very moment when His Troops had gained an important Victory over the French at Kaiserslautern under Prince Hohenlohe.

"His Majesty had in consequence with pain found Himself under the necessity of adopting Measures which He was sensible were so detrimental to the safety of Holland, and to the Common Cause.

"These reflections have certainly not escaped the wisdom and penetration of the British Ministry, and His Majesty was willing to believe that the overtures which had lately been made by Mr. Paget were meant to assure Him that His British Majesty was disposed to fulfil on His Part the stipulations of the Convention of the Hague, by effectuating the Payments due, and such as were on the eve of becoming due.

"En attendant que la Cour de Londres remplisse cette juste attente de Sa Majesté, et qu'elle fournisse le paiement dans le terme le plus court, le Maréchal de Möllendorf sera à la verité dans le cas, conformément aux ordres qu'il a reçus, de passer le Rhin, et de continuer les préparatifs pour le prompt retour de son Armée. Mais dès que la Cour de Londres aura rempli ses engagements en faisant effectuer le paiement des arrérages échus, ainsi que de ceux qui vont échoir, Sa Majesté, en conformité de ce qui a été stipulé à ce sujet dans la susdite Convention, se prêtera avec plaisir au concert proposé entre le Duc de York et les Chefs des Armées Prussiennes et Autrichiennes sur les opérations de Campagne actuelle, concert que pourra également avoir lieu en deça du Rhin, si le Maréchal de Möllendorf l'a déjà passé, et avant qu'il ait regagné les Frontières des Etats du Roi, mais que dans aucun cas ne saurait assujettir les Troupes du Roi à la disposition arbitraire de l'une et de l'autre Puissance contractante.

"Sa Majesté ne pouvant d'autant moins donner les

mains à un arrangement pareil, que les engagements qu'elle a contractés exigent un concert préalable qui suppose Son Consentement."

Although this answer was given verbally I had an opportunity of taking a few notes, and can answer for its accuracy.

I must observe to Your Lordship that I have made it a study to discover the temper and disposition of this Court with respect to the War, and I am more convinced than ever that the King is the only Person in this Country, who is disposed to prosecute it with energy and vigour.

In the different conversations I had with the Prussian Ministers, I have most fully, though, I fear not successfully, acquitted myself of Your Lordship's last Instructions.

The humour and language of this Court at the time I was furnished with them, did not lead me to expect that I should receive even so favorable an answer as the above, and we have only to compare the latter with that which I received on the 16th Instant, to perceive now much their tone, in the course of a very few days, is changed.

I was informed on Saturday last, that part of the Subsidy for the present month, was ready for delivery at Hambro'. As I saw Count Haugwitz on that day, I acquainted him with the circumstance, pointing out to him that the Intention of His Majesty was no longer to be doubted, as part of the Subsidy for October was actually provided, and giving him to understand, that it now depended upon this Court to be put into possession of it, by acceding to the propositions I had made. He asked me whether I was authorized or whether I could take upon myself to give orders for the payment of it. I told him that beforehand I must be satisfied on two points which I proposed, and which he seemed not to object entirely to. We then agreed that I should call on him again in the evening, and by his desire I then gave him in writing the enclosed paper:

"Le soussigné s'engagera à envoyer par estafette à Hambourg les Ordres à fin de faire payer les subsides,

si Sa Majesté veut bien consentir aux conditions suivantes,—

"1. Que son Excellence Monsieur le F. M. de Möllendorf soit muni sans perte de temps des ordres pour entrer en concert avec S.A.R. Monseigneur le Duc de York, et si les circonstances l'exigent avec Monsieur le Général Comte de Clairfait, pour une co-opération ultérieure pour la défense de la Hollande.

"2. Que Monsieur le Maréchal de Möllendorf soit également muni des Pleins Pouvoirs pour faire passer un Corps suffisant de son Armée au secours de la République, là où les circonstances pourraient appeler le Duc de York à la demander." (Signé) ARTHUR PAGET.

BERLIN, *le* 25 *Octobre*, 1794.

In this interview he rather objected to the second article, alleging that the sense of it was conveyed in the first word "concert." If this was the case, I observed, there could be no objection to it, but that considering the very great responsibility I drew upon myself, I could not admit anything less binding, and that the very circumstance of wishing to avoid the obligation of the second condition, proved how little advantage was to be expected from a concert wherein if the Duke of York found it expedient to propose to Marshal Möllendorf to detach a corps of Prussians, the latter should be either predetermined or instructed not to afford such a succour.

I left Count Haugwitz seemingly satisfied with the Project. He promised me if it were possible to go the next day to Potzdam. Upon coming home however I wrote to him, urging the delay that would be avoided by his seeing the King, and on that account pressing him not to postpone his journey. I waited notwithstanding till yesterday evening before Count Haugwitz sent for me. He then informed me that although he had been prevented going to Potzdam (and I have since found out that he could not get the permission on that day), he had nevertheless made a faithful report of our last conversation to His Prussian Majesty, and that he could only now refer me to the Answer given me by Count Finck, that the King was unalterable in His Resolution of not listening to any proposal till such time as the

whole subsidy should be liquidated. Count Haugwitz then said to me that, with respect to detaching any part of the Prussian Army on the side of Holland, which my second article implied, it was so little thought of that the Duke of York had sent an Officer with proposals to Marshal Möllendorf to detach from his right a Corps for the defence of the Rhine between Bonn and Mülheim. I could only observe that supposing the Duke of York had made the proposal he mentioned, the second condition applied equally to the execution of it.

This conversation ended on the part of Count Haugwitz precisely as the others, by his repeating that as a well-wisher to the Common Cause, he earnestly hoped the Subsidy would be remitted without loss of time.

I must now in my own justification observe to Your Lordship, that before I determined upon what might have been a decisive measure, namely, the written proposal I gave in, I had in vain used every argument to gain my point. This step indeed I looked upon as nearly conclusive, and likely to produce the desired effect, but the real fact is that they consider the subsidy for the month of October as already fairly earned, consequently as their due, so that I have every reason to believe that in order to secure an effectual co-operation of the Prussian Army, it would be necessary to satisfy their demands for the next month—for though the expression 'Common Cause' is continually in their mouths, I am very well assured that no other common cause than the consideration of 150,000 pounds a month will induce this Country to prosecute the War.

If in His Majesty's wisdom it should be judged expedient to pay the subsidies, no difficulty will be made as to a future Concert, but I should not be doing my duty were I to endeavour to conceal from Your Lordship that the Prussian Army will not only continue in the most perfect inactivity, but will incontinently be withdrawn, in case the present suspension of the subsidy is not taken off.—I have, &c., (Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 39.] BERLIN, *4th November*, 1794.

MY LORD,—Since the receipt of your Lordship's last Letter, I have in a conversation with Count Haugwitz acquainted him that His Majesty had learnt with pain the resolution of His Prussian Majesty to withdraw His Troops, at a moment when His own Interest, the defence of Holland, and the War in general, so evidently required the strongest co-operation on the Part of the Allies; and that the communication which Mr. Jacobi had been ordered to make was the more unexpected, as it was notorious that His Majesty had scrupulously fulfilled His engagements contracted by the Convention of the Hague.

[*Cypher.*] Count Haugwitz' answer differed in nothing from the usual tenor of his language. When I observed that upon a retrospect of past transactions, the Conduct of this Court was such as to evince a disposition on their Part to recede from their engagements, he said that the Army still remained on the Rhine at the sole expense of His Prussian Majesty, and it appears that the Preparations for the Retreat are by no means in forwardness on account of the difficulty of disposing of their Magazines which were provided till the month of February.

What I have been able to learn with respect to the Duke of Brunswick, is, that His Serene Highness has written to the King of Prussia, urging him to an active co-operation with His Allies, to which a vague answer has been returned. And by a private letter from a Princess of that House, the contents of which have been imparted to me, it appears that the Duke has shown much aversion to accept the offer which has been made Him. [*Cypher ends.*]

The Spanish Minister has received orders to make known to this Ministry, that it is His Catholic Majesty's wish that the King of Prussia should acknowledge Monsieur as Regent of France. The answer he has received is that His Prussian Majesty thinks it His duty to concert previously with His Allies upon the wisdom of such a Measure.

An order has been issued against several emigrés here, to quit the Prussian Dominions within the shortest space of time.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From Lord MALMESBURY *to* Hon. A. PAGET.

In Lemon Juice.] FRANKFORT, *Nov. 15th*, 1794.

MY DEAR SIR,—You have done everything in your power and done it with great ability and zeal. It is however so evident that the object of the Prussians is to secure the subsidy and evade the treaty that I am heartily glad that my mission is put an end to. I now as sincerely wish the whole Army at a distance from the Rhine, as I wished it in May on the banks of the Meuse. It is not impossible that I may go to Brunswick, but not on a political commission.—Ever, my dear Paget, &c.,

(Signed) MALMESBURY.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord ST. HELENS.

[*Lemon Juice.*] BERLIN, 15 *Nov.*, 1794.

MY DEAR LORD,—I find by a letter lately written by the Prince of Orange to the D. of Brunswick that We have just concluded a treaty with Austria by which we obtain a succour of 25 or 30,000 Men. This with other circumstances leads me to suppose that all *connection* with England and this Country, at least as far as relates to the Convention of the Hague, is at an end. I have every reason to suppose that they expected here that a reconciliation would take place, and that the Treaty would again be put in force. I mentioned to y^{r} L^{p} some time back, that a suspicion had been entertained by some people (for instance Möllendorf) relative to the views of the House of Austria upon Bavaria, and that this might be the motive for keeping the army on y^{e} Rhine. I have since had some conversation with Haugwiz upon the subject; he disclaims the idea, and dwells upon the good faith of this Country in not withdrawing its Troops. The fact is that they cannot with ease dispose of their Magázines.

In case the Subsidiary Treaty had been renewed, I

cannot help thinking that the only way of preserving unanimity and obtaining an active co-operation of the Allied Armies would have been to have given the command of them to the D. of Brunswick. I mentioned this to Haugwiz who, as the jockies say, seemed *exceeding fond* of the Idea, but it would remain to be seen whether Austria *donnerait la main* to such a plan.

If we can preserve Holland without assistance from this Country, no one will rejoice more than myself at our rupture with Prussia—their conduct from the beginning has been dirty and equivocal, but on the other hand, we trust[d] more to the spirit than to the wording of our Convention with them. In short, if we ever have occasion either to renew this or to make another, I flatter myself that we shall signify what we most require more explicitly.

From Sir CHARLES WHITWORTH *to* Hon. A. PAGET.

ST. PETERSBURG, 18 *Nov.*, 1794.

I condole with you most sincerely on the loss you have sustained, and the more so as I know the regard you had for your brother,* and how much he deserved it. I will not however revive your uneasiness by dwelling too much upon it, and beg you only to recollect that it is the lot of human nature to suffer.

I return you my hearty thanks for your letters, which are exceedingly interesting at this important crisis. I begin to hope that our efforts may yet save the unworthy Dutchmen, but we must not reckon upon their gratitude. Herzog begins to hold up his head and grunt less than he has done, for some time past. Lord H. Spencer will be rejoyced to be at liberty to leave Stockholm, where the Swedish Ministry, for want of other employment it is to be hoped, are quarrelling with him for a dish of Coffee. He promises to take this road, but I will be humane enough not to keep him long. I should otherwise make but an ill return for your attention & goodness in writing so punctually.

God bless you my Dear Paget & believe me Ever Most Truly Yours, (Signed) C. W.

* William, Captain R.N.—A. P.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

DOWNING STREET, *29th November*, 1794.

SIR,—Your Several Dispatches to No. 43 inclusive have been duly received and laid before the King.

I send you inclosed for your information and guidance in any conversations you may have with the Prussian Ministery Copies of two letters which I have this day sent to Baron Jacobi, relative to Overtures lately made by him, in pursuance of orders from his Court, on the Subject of the renewal of a Concert between His Majesty and the King of Prussia for the operations of their respective Armies and respecting the acknowledgement of Louis 17th as King of france, and of the Comte de Provence as Regent.—I am, &c.

(Signed) GRENVILLE.

[Copie.] DOWNING STREET, *ce 28 Novembre*, 1794.

MONSIEUR,—J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser la reception de votre lettre de 17 du courant par laquelle en m'informant que la Cour d'Espagne a fait proposer a Berlin de reconnoitre Louis 17 roi de france & Mr. le Comte de Provence Regent, vous m'aves demandé de la part de S.M.P. si le roi se déclareroit pour ces reconnoissances dans le cas même que la Cour de Vienne auprés de laquelle la Cour d'Espagne a fait une semblable ouverture, les différoit encore.

J'ai actuellement l'honneur de vous informer qu'en conséquence d'une communication Ministerielle que l'ambassadeur d'Espagne m' a faite il y a quelque tems par ordre de Sa Cour, j'ai reçu les ordres du roi mon maitre de déclarer à cette Cour que S.M. se trouvoit très disposée à se concerter avec S.M.T.C. aussi bien qu' avec les autres puissances coalisées sur la manière & le tems qui seroient propres pour cette reconnoissance à laquelle le roi ne se refuseroit pas dès qu'il y auroit apparence que cette mesure pourroit contribuer au succès de la Cause commune mais que l'effet & les avantages qui pouvoient en resulter seroient perdus, si on voulut l'adopter dans un moment qui ne convriendroit pas.

C'est pourquoi S.M. a jugée convenable de remettre

encore pour quelque tems la décision ultérieure de cette affaire & en attendant de consulter la-dessus le voeu des autres Cours de l'Europe,—J'ai l'honneur, &c.,

(Signé) GRENVILLE.

From Lord ST. HELENS *to* Hon. A. PAGET.

HAGUE, *2nd Dec^r*, 1794.

MY DEAR SIR,—Since the taking of Nimeguen the Enemy have made no forward movement, which circumstance, added to a period of negotiation that this Gov^t have set on foot for a separate peace, has produced here a degree of momentary tranquility, tho' there is in truth very little reason to suppose either that the said negotiation will succeed or that the Enemy will discontinue their operations, tho' they have been forced to suspend them till they shall have prepared the necessary means for crossing the Waal.* I am at present in hourly expectation of the arrival of the D. of York who is coming to the Hague to settle with the Stadtholder the details of his winter cantonments. His army now amounts to over sixty thousand men, as he has been actually joined by 32,000 Austrians under Gen^l Alvinzy who has been directed to put himself under H.R.H.'s Command. The terms on which this arrangement has been effected are an advance on our part of £100,000 a month, but this agreement is only provisional.

I am assured from the best authority that the late prorogation of Parl^t, whatever might have been its real motives was *not* occasioned by any waverings in the system of the Cabinet relative to the prosecution of the War. When L^d. H. Spencer† arrives pray make him my best comp^ts & offers of service.—Yrs ever, &c.,

(Signed) ST. HELENS.

From Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 46.] BERLIN, *6th December*, 1794.

MY LORD,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's dispatch No. 6 of the 11th

* Pichegru crossed the Waal in the first days of January 1795.

† Transferred from Stockholm to be Minister at Berlin.

November, with its enclosure, which reached me only by the last post.

In strict compliance with Your Lordship's orders, I have made no communication whatever on the subject of that Dispatch to the Prussian Minister, though were the matter between us, I should feel very little doubt of being able to prove to them that the language of Baron Jacobi's note to Your Lordship is entirely different to that held to me at the time when His Prussian Majesty was pleased to write to His Minister at London upon the subject, and I now declare to Your Lordship in most direct contradiction to Mr. Jacobi, that upon my demanding, about the 22nd of Oct. last, a concert on the part of Prussia for the defence of Holland, His Prussian Majesty declined meeting that proposal till such time as the subsidy for the months of October and November should be paid.

This, My Lord, is a conditional refusal, whereas Mr. de Jacobi has in direct terms acquainted Your Lordship that the concert which I proposed had been accepted.

Unwilling to trust to my own memory for the assertion of these facts I must inform Your Lordship that I was permitted to take notes of the verbal communication which was made to me by Count Finck on the 26th October, and I will now give an extract of two passages from an Official Note given to the Dutch Minister bearing the same date, which will further prove that His Prussian Majesty's consent to accede to the proposed concert was unquestionably conditional.—"Sa Majesté ne demandant pas mieux que de continuer à participer aux mésures qui auront pour objet la conservation et le bien être de la République des Provinces Unies, veut bien convenir encore une fois à reprendre les liaisons qu'il a contractés par le traité de la Haye, mais sous la condition expresse que les deux Puissances maritimes l'accompliront fidèlement de leur côté, et que la Cour d'Angleterre commencera par acquitter dans le plus court espace de temps possible l'arrierage du subside échu, et celui dont le terme est sur le point d'expirer. Ce préambule, une fois rempli, le roi ne fera pas la moindre difficulté de se concerter sur les opérations de la campagne actuelle.

"Il ne faudra qu'un dernier ordre pour decider la retraite effective des troupes, et il n'y a que le paiement immédiate des subsides qui puisse le prévenir."

I have (though perfectly unministerially and in confidence) suggested that a modification would evidently tend to the renewal of the treaty, and that it was unreasonable to expect that England alone should make advances.

I will not trouble Your Lordship by a further justification of the request I was under the necessity of making during the late negociation with which I was charged.—I have the honour to be, &c., (Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 47.] BERLIN, *9th December*, 1794.

MY LORD,—Agreeably to Your Lordship's orders I shall, upon Lord Henry Spencer's arrival at the Court, put him in possession of the Official Correspondence and Cypher, and of such information as I may have it in my power to give him.

[*Cypher.*] I had an interview of some length with Count Haugwitz yesterday evening, and I am sorry to add I find him more inflexible than ever with respect to the payment of the subsidies being a necessary preamble to all future concerts on the part of Prussia. He is persistent yet perfectly inconsistent in his arguments. In speaking of Mr. de Meyerinck's negociations at Basle, which I shall afterward have occasion to mention, I complained of the secresy which had been observed on that subject, and asked him what possible claim this country could have upon England while it was in open negociation with the common enemy. He said that had the Convention of the Hague continued in force His Prussian Majesty would on no account have entered into treaty with His enemies without the previous concurrence of his allies; this brought on a discussion in which I attributed infinite blame to the conduct of the Prussian Officers during the course of the campaign, and contended that if their conduct previous to the month of October had obliged His Majesty to suspend the subsidy, no part of it since could be an inducement for the renewal of it. I then informed him that notwithstanding the past His

Majesty, invariable in the opinion that it required the united efforts of every Power to terminate this war with success, was willing to listen to any proposals His Prussian Majesty might have to make either for the prosecution of another campaign, or for the immediate defence of Holland at this critical juncture. Count Haugwitz appointed me again for to-morrow, but I by no means feel sanguine in my hopes of being able to obtain anything satisfactory or conclusive. I must now inform Your Lordship, that I learn by undoubted authority, that Mr. de Meyerinck, the object of whose journey is allowed here to be merely for the exchange of prisoners, having found the person appointed to treat with him furnished only with the most limited instructions, has taken upon himself to write to the Committee of Public Safety at Paris proposing the three following Articles: 1, the Exchange of Prisoners: 2nd, The neutrality of Mayence and the Empire: and 3rd, a Cessation of Hostilities between Prussia and France. No further information upon this important subject has as yet come to my knowledge.

Prince Nassau has obtained his dismissal from the Russian Service with a pension of 12,000 roubles per annum.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.*

[No. 49.] BERLIN, 20 *Dec.*, 1794.

MY LORD,—It is with real concern that I find myself under the necessity of giving a further confirmation of all I have hitherto had occasion to say on the subject of our Convention with this country.

I have this time judged it improper to make any formal overture for the co-operation of Prussia in the war, from a conviction that nothing but a formal and positive refusal would have been obtained, or what under the present circumstances appears to be the same thing, an assent given upon the condition sine quâ non that subsidies should be previously paid.

* Lord Malmesbury ("Diaries," iii. p. 184), says "N.B.—This despatch remarkably well drawn up."

I have therefore merely given it to be understood that His Majesty would listen with pleasure to any proposals the King of Prussia might have to make relative to the desire to contribute his utmost efforts, in conjunction with his allies, which had hitherto actuated him. Count Haugwitz, who was at Potzdam three days ago, had an opportunity of learning His Prussian Majesty's further sentiments upon the subject, and has informed me that the King is very far from having anything to propose, that hitherto all overtures had been made by England as principal in the war, that since the suspension of the subsidies He was less than ever in a situation to come forward, and that whatever desire he might have to meet His Majesty's wishes His dignity would not allow him to depart from the principle he had laid down, the less so as that principle was founded upon a claim the justice of which could not be disputed. In short, My Lord, Count Haugwitz informed me that he had His Majesty's orders not to enter into any explanation with respect to His intentions and views for another campaign until he should be satisfied in his demand.

I did not leave this singular degree of reserve uncensured, but every argument and every means I was capable of employing were without effect.

I wish to fatigue Your Lordship as little as possible by a recapitulation of the desultory conversations which have passed between Mr. Haugwitz and myself, the little I have been able to extort from him he has begged me to consider as unministerial.

It appears that were the present difficulties removed His Majesty would find the King of Prussia disposed to co-operate in the war, and supposing it to be His Majesty's intention to renew the convention of the Hague, and to demand a succour for instance of 20,000 men for the defence of Holland, leaving the remainder of the army either in its present or any other given position, in that case it would be necessary to alter the wording of the treaty, and I think it extremely likely that under these circumstances His Prussian Majesty would not only use his good offices in prevailing upon the Duke of Brunswick to take the command of the combined armies for the defence of the United Provinces but

consent with pleasure to this partial transportation of his army.

I merely mention this circumstance, as I have always understood that the Duke of Brunswick's decision depended entirely upon the co-operation of Prussia.

The presence of M. de Meyerinck at Basle, the mission of Count Goltze to Frankfort,* and the general operations of this Cabinet, are all symptoms that if Peace between this country and France is not at hand, at least it very seriously occupies the present deliberations of this Ministry. I am of opinion it will be difficult to engage the King of Prussia to a continuation of the war. But what appears particularly necessary at this period is an early decision, and my motive for submitting this consideration to Your Lordship is, that the Prussian army, as I am credibly informed is the case with that of Austria, is even at this late season of the year without either recruits or magazines for the opening of another campaign.

The circumstance of the Prussian Army still keeping the field may admit of two conclusions: 1st, the King of Prussia wishes to prove to Europe that he has acted with equal vigour in the war since the desertion (as it is pretended) of Great Britain, by which he was emancipated from the obligation, and that in order to check the views of Austria, who might otherwise seek indemnification in the Empire, he has thought it indispensable not to recall his troops. To this may be added that the presence of the Prussian Army will evidently give weight to the negociations on foot at Basle. It is not, however, probable that after its having been declared in the beginning of the year that this country was incapable of making war against France without pecuniary succour, it can any longer maintain its army in position on the Rhine. We have therefore little to expect from the co-operation of Prussia after the month of January, unless it shall in His Majesty's wisdom appear advisable to renew our connection with this country, particularly that portion of it which relates to the Convention of the Hague.—I have the honour to be, &c., (Signed) A. PAGET.

* See Mr. Paget's despatch of Dec. 23.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 50.] BERLIN, 23 *December*, 1794.

MY LORD,—His Prussian Majesty has taken up his winter residence in this capital, where he arrived from Potzdam four days ago.

The attention of this Court will for some time be much taken up with Count Goltze's mission to Basle and Franckfort, the former of which has for object a negociation with some of the Princes of the Empire who have offered to furnish *en nature* their contingent to His Prussian Majesty for the subsistence of troops on the Rhine.

With respect to the latter an official communication has been made to the Dutch Minister, by which it appears that His Prussian Majesty, actuated by a desire of promoting the Prussian welfare, and considering under the present circumstances that it became important to discover how far the French Nation were disposed to listen to proposals for Peace, had entrusted this commission to his Minister Count Goltze, but it is expressly said that His Prussian Majesty, far from wishing to conclude a separate Peace, had solely a general Pacification in view, and would not fail to make known in due time to His Allies, any circumstances which might arise tending to that end.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From Lord MALMESBURY *to* Hon. A. PAGET.*

BRUNSWICK, 25 *Dec., noon*, 1794.

Your dispatch to L[d] Grenville cannot fail of doing you credit. You have done every thing that Prudence & Ability could desire, & you have stated it in the clearest & fairest manner possible. The Court of Berlin is working its own destruction & all we have to do is to avoid being buried under its ruins. The enclosed paper (on the veracity of which you may rely) will perhaps give you more accurate information on the state of the negotiation with the Convention & the manner in

* Printed in Lord Malmesbury's "Correspondence," iii. 228.

which it is conducted than you will have it in your power to collect at Berlin—the Dutch, who are panick struck, have on their side been also weak enough to enter into pourparlers with the French, & two persons of the name of Bruntzen (formerly Ambr. at Paris) & Rysselaer* are going to Bois-le-duc to have a conference with la Combe for a separate peace.

There is little doubt that both these disgraceful overtures will end in nothing but to expose the iniquity & folly of those who have made them, & that the only reason for their being listen'd to on the part of the French is in order to gain time for their own hostile preparations, & to prevent those of the combined powers by amusing them with the prospect of a pacification they neither can or mean to give them. The Stadholder & Princess of Orange see all this with extreme repugnance, but I fancy that Reede (who is generally actuated by confined & selfish motives) has given very warmly into the idea, &, from what I learn, the principal reason for sending him this messenger is to repress his ardor on this occasion & to entreat him not to move faster in a matter of such magnitude than his instructions authorise him to do.

I am myself so convinced that Peace is, first of all impossible, & secondly (that if it was possible) that it would be the most fatal & ruinous measure which could be adopted, that altho' I am fully persuaded that nothing which can be said or done by me is at all likely to produce the smallest effect at Berlin, yet in order to liberate my own conscience & to acquitt myself of my last political duty before I return to England, I have written the enclosed letter & reflections to Haugwitz. You will be good enough to fasten the seal & either send or give them to him.

It is my wish they should get to the King as I cannot but believe many official papers I gave in at Frankfort have been suppressed, & that His Majesty is not fully & fairly kept informed of what has passed and is passing. I say, I cannot but believe this, because his present Conduct is in direct contradiction to what, not ten months ago, he assured me *ten* times a day to be his immovable principles founded on what he consider'd the welfare,

* Commissary at the Dutch Army.

dignity, & safety of his Monarchy to rest. If therefore you can by any indirect channel convey to the King that such a letter is in Haugwitz's possession, it will probably raise in turn a curiosity to see it, & indeed unless Haugwitz is as much altered in his opinions as I suspect he is, he would be the first to show it to him.

While the Prussians are treating for Peace with the Convention, & have violated by this conduct all of their most sacred engagements with the combined Powers, they are opening a loan, as you will perceive, or rather raising a contribution at Frankfort & in the interior of the Empire. It is to be carried to ten millions of dollars with a threat that if this sum is not forthcoming by the middle of Jan^{ry} the army will leave the Rhine.

This threat will never be carried into execution, & you will see very good reasons why in the French paper I inclose.

In regard to the D. of Brunswick, it certainly is not likely that he will be prevailed on to take the command without being sure that such a measure would not expose him to the anger and resentment of Prussia; this, which is but a poor excuse for a great man, is I am satisfied his only motive, for he sees the conduct of that Court in the same light we do & rails at it still more.

If you have a safe opportunity pray write to me—these Easterly winds may detain us here many days longer. You must not think, my dear Paget, of quitting the line. I am sure L^{d} Grenville will not allow you, as without a compliment I believe y^{r} despatches to be much the best he receives from the Continent.

In Lord MALMESBURY'S *Letter of Dec.* 25.

[Copie.]

LES CONSIDÉRATIONS qui empêchent le Roi de Prusse de porter son Armée sur le bas Rhin sont.

1° Que la Prusse perdrait son influence dans l' Empire &c.

2° Les Ressources en Argent qu'elle y trouve, Le Landgrave de Hesse Lui ayant deja fourni un million, et la Ville de Francfort des Sommes considérables; ce qui

joint aux Secours que Lui promet l'Electeur Palatin, la met à même de faire face à tout. Enfin—

3° Que par l'eloignement de ses Armées du haut Rhin, La Prusse laisserait l'Empereur le maitre d'agir à son Gré dans l'Empire et à s'emparer peut-être de la Bavière.

Toutes ces raisons ont été victorieusement combattues.

Quant aux Négociations de Paix, Voici le terme ou en est la Prusse dans ce moment.

Le 16° est arrivé de Bâle le Secretaire de Legation Harnier qui est au Service du Roi de Prusse, lequel a apporté à Berlin un ample mémoire de la part des Négociateurs français, portant en substance que le Gouvernement français etait prêt de conclure un Traité de Paix particulière avec S.M.P. et une Alliance contre les Ennemis de la France, deux choses qu'on a cherché dans ce mémoire de faire envisager comme infiniment avantageuses à la Prusse, qui finalement a été invitée à envoyer à Paris un homme de confiance pour abréger cette négociation ; ce qui effectivement a été fait—On y a envoyé le même Harnier qui, soit dit en passant, est dans des principes très democratiques. Cependant il est chargé simplement de repondre à la Convention. Que la Prusse sentait les raisons qui devaient lui faire envisager la France comme un Allié Naturel ; mais que celle-ci avait avant tout à établir sur une base solide la forme de son Gouvernement. Qu'ensuite Elle aurait à voir s'il lui conviendrait d'entrer dans la grande Politique de l'Europe, d'après ses interêts comme un nouvel état—surtout si Elle voudrait garantir la Paix de Westphalie et rendre conséquemment les Pays qu'elle a pris dans la Guerre actuelle en Allemagne.

From Lord MALMESBURY *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[*In Lemon Juice.*] BRUNSWICK, *Dec.* 28, 1794.

DEAR PAGET,—The Duke* persists in his refusal, though I often found him wavering, and evidently saw then that it was with reluctance he refused. He has no other reason but the fear of the Court of Berlin, and this

* Of Brunswick.

is so ruling in him that although he rails against it more vehemently than any of us he cannot subdue it. The King of Prussia has on this occasion kept up his character of weakness and, from the letters he has written to the Duke on the subject, it seems to be under more and more dangerous directions than ever. A meeting between Reede and Stamfort at Magdebourg produced nothing. I mean in a day or two to return to the charge and try to work on all his passions at once. Pray let me hear from you oftener as long as I stay here.—Ever yours, &c., (Signed) MALMESBURY.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 51.] BERLIN, 31*st December*, 1794.

MY LORD,—Though nothing decisive can as yet be said to have transpired relative to the Mission of Count Goltze, yet the Reports which have hitherto been received from him are unquestionably such as to give ground for supposing that his efforts will not altogether be unattended with success.

It has been impossible for me, considering the extreme reserve of this Ministry, to penetrate in a manner anywise satisfactory into their views. I have nevertheless thought it my duty to take notice of a conduct become suspect by the degree of Mystery with which it has been directed.

Your Lordship is, without doubt, acquainted that one Harnier has been sent to Paris on the part of this Court, and as I have been informed, with instructions not only to conclude a separate Peace, but upon certain conditions to form an Alliance between that country and Prussia. There is no doubt that a Memoire to that effect has been transmitted from the French Commissaries at Basle for the consideration of this Ministry, but with respect to Mr. Harnier's instructions I am not only authorized, but have been desired by Count Haugwitz to make use of his name in contradicting the report. In doing this I acquit myself in one sense of my duty, but I would by no means take upon myself to lay down as matter of veracity all that is said in support of the salutary and disinterested views of this country in its present negociation with

France. The arguments are too clear and too palpable not to carry conviction with them, that Prussia as an Ally of England is acting contrary to Treaty by entering into any negociation with the enemy which may be detrimental to the public cause, but it is positively and repeatedly asserted by this Ministry that His Prussian Majesty, far from thinking of entering into any compact with France, is on the contrary solely actuated by the desire of promoting the public welfare by putting an end to the war, and thereby consolidating a permanent and honourable Peace for himself and his allies, and that the sole object of M. de Goltze's journey is to concert with some of the Princes and circles of the Empire for the furtherance of those views.*

Such, My Lord, is the language held to me. I have endeavoured to shew that the only means of attaining the desirable end would be to establish a general and well directed Concert among the belligerent Powers backed by the most vigorous preparations for the continuation of the war; but I meet with no sort of proposal tending to the execution of such a measure, and the pretended silence of the Court of London is seized as a pretext for this backwardness.

The leaders of the present system appear to be His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Prussia,† Count de Haugwitz, and General Bischoffswerder. It is not then to be wondered at if the most precipitated measures are at least suggested, if not adopted, in order to bring about a connection with France, when we consider the known predilection of Prince Henry for that Nation as an Ally, a predilection founded on the illusory basis which a bigoted attachment to its customs and individuals has formed. I have heard, My Lord, from undoubted authority that His Prussian Majesty in the commencement shewed the utmost repugnance to these pacific arrangements, but this only proves the degree of ascendency Mr. de Bischoffswerder continues to enjoy

* On April 5, 1795, Prussia made peace with France by the treaty of Basle. Hardenberg, who replaced Goltze, negotiated this treaty, which nearly shattered the First Coalition. A deadly blow was also struck at the Imperial system by the open separation of North and South Germany.

† Said by the Duke of Brunswick to be the greatest and most dangerous adversary to England at the Prussian Court. (Malmesbury's "Diaries," iii. 174.)

over the mind of his Sovereign. Whatever authority I may hitherto have had for stating that the payment of subsidy would be the price of its co-operation in the present war, this co-operation may now be said to depend upon the turn their present negociation may take. In case it should fail, their interest and welfare will oblige them to have recourse to the former alliances in the present state of the business; however I have reason to suppose that they would reluctantly enter into any new engagement with their allies even for the defence of His Prussian Majesty's own dominions in Westphalia, for fear of giving umbrage to the people with whom they are at this moment in treaty.

The Dutch Minister, in return for the confidential communication which he had orders to make at this Court relative to the instructions given to Messrs. Bruntzen and Rysselaer, has also been made acquainted with Mr. Harnier's commission at Paris, and this Ministry, but particularly Mr. de Haugwitz, have pledged themselves in the most solemn manner, that he is merely instructed to discover the sentiments of the Convention, and relative to them has negociated for a general pacification.

I have no news to transmit to Your Lordship from Poland. It is said that Count Ignar Potocki and the General Wawrecki (who succeeded Kosciusko* in the command in chief) have been arrested by His Imperial Majesty's order, and conducted into Siberia.—I have the honour to be, &c., (Signed) A. PAGET.

From Lord MALMESBURY *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

HANOVER,† *Tuesday*, 27 *Janry.*, 1795.

MY DEAR PAGET,—Hunter delivered to me this morning early y^rs of the 24th and I immediately am going to despatch Timms to try to pass at Empden. I fear he will find you still there. I have many thanks to give you for y^r *information*, which however low y^r own modesty may rate it deserves that name much better than anything brought me in the letters of Gen^ls

* Made prisoner by the Russians, October 4.
† On his journey to England, conducting the Princess Caroline.

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Walmoden and Harcourt. The situation of our Troops is lamentable, every thing calculated to make it so, weather, misfortune, Prussian malice, and Dutch perfidy. I am very ready to admit with you that Austria has by no means come up to her promise or to our expectations —but I think better or, to be more correct, less ill of that Cabinet than of my old Potsdam friends. They *must* be try'd *and* if they also deceive us, we must then *give in.* You ask me a very difficult question when you enquire what effect a total loss of Holland would have on the deliberation of our cabinet—*I* do not think Holland irrecoverably gone, and my reasonings, was I of the cabinet, would be to make the greatest effort to recover it. I have little doubt that in the course of time the cry against France, and for the House of Orange, will be as great as it is at this hour but in a contrary sense, and that if we manage matters well and above all *fight well* that we shall soon have as much assistance to help us in driving the Carmagnols out of the republic, as they have now found to get into it—anything but peace and submission.—Ever y^{rs} most truly and sincerely,

MALMESBURY.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord MALMESBURY.

EMBDEN, 31 *Jan.*, 1795.

I must now inform you of what is passing in this part of the World. The Magistracy of Embden had in the first instance directed that all foreigners should quit the place, but in consequence of the good offices of Count Keller, who accompanied me hither, and representation made by Capt. Popham to the Chamber of Aurich, we are now tolerated and even an apology has been made for their past illiberal conduct. This, however, merely regards some English who are here at this moment on their way home. A matter of more serious consideration are the difficulties which are made to admitting the sick.

The Magistracy (who sent for me yesterday to the Town Hall, in order to consult with me on the subject) pretend that they are so positively dependent upon the Chamber of Aurich that they cannot take upon them-

selves to consent to the formation of an Hospital at this place, until they shall be authorised by that body so to do. The Chamber of Aurich, on the other hand, declare themselves incapable of doing anything till such time as they shall receive an answer from Berlin to a communication which was sent the other day.

Such is the state of things here. In the meantime our sick are at two days' journey from hence, the officer who is charged with them has sent to stop them, and they must remain at Lehr till something definite can be settled, *ou bien*, they must force with the bayonet a town in the King of Prussia's dominion.

You will perceive in all this, my dear Lord, a strange want of conduct on the part of those whose duty it is to give orders, and on those whose duty it is, if such orders are given, to see them executed. There seems unfortunately to exist at head-quarters, a degree of misunderstanding which is unpardonable. Walmoden is irresolute and uncertain and in the last *conseil de guerre* seemed to threaten Harcourt, and said that as he had no inclination to be made prisoner and conducted to Amiens they should shift head-quarters the next day, which in effect he did. He is desirous of throwing as much responsibility as possible on the Generals under his command.

You, of course, are the best judge whether or what measures it will be necessary for our Minister to take at Berlin upon this occasion.

It appears that the Citizens of Groningen have expulsed the Dutch garrison from that place, and have armed themselves to the number of 1600, with a determination to oppose the entry of our troops into their town. I am particularly anxious that you should leave Hanover as soon as possible, particularly if you embark here, as vast inconvenience may arise from the spirit of revolt which seems to pervade the neighbouring provinces.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From Lord MALMESBURY *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

HANOVER, *Tuesday, Febry.* 3, 9 P.M., 1795.

MY DEAR PAGET,—I should most truely have deserv'd the *mercurial* you give me in yours of the 31st,* and by no means all the kind and interesting information you give me afterwards, if I really had been so inattentive and careless as appearances led you to suppose me. The inclosed letter will be a voucher for me—it was hid under many papers and I never found it till I receiv'd y^r^ joba-tion. Be assur'd it is impossible any thing of the kind you allude to *can* happen, and that I join to the most personal regard a very great respect and consideration for y^r^ abilities which I trust will never be allowed to remain unemployed; but no more of this. Many thanks for y^r^ bulletin. It brought me much new information. All you say of the conduct of the Prussian magistracy is quite in character; L^d^ H. Spencer† had already obtained an order for the delivering grain and forage to our Armies and I trust it will be followed up by one for receiving our sick at Empden and admitting our troops into the country if necessary. I have the less doubt of this as the insolent and absurd manner in which the French have behaved to Goltze and Harnier‡ has put His Prussian Majesty in a passion and he now declares *guerre à mort* to the French. Official communication has been made to *Leuthe* and I suppose to L^d^ Henry to say that the King intends to march his army from the Rhine to Westphalia—to increase it to 60,000 effective men, besides what we can furnish—preparations are making for magazines, etc., and they *really* seem to be in earnest. My letter of 27th from Francfort contains the conduct of the French at Basle. Möllendorf frankly owns he has been duped, and gives it as his opinion that every effort should be made for winning the next campaign—he deplores the part he

* Complaining of not having had a letter from Lord Malmesbury for some time.

† Now Minister to Prussia.

‡ See Mr. Paget's despatch, Dec. 31, 1794. On Dec. 26 news arrived at Berlin of insolent and impossible terms proposed to Goltze by the French at Basle; and Harnier complained of his treatment in Paris.

has acted and seems thoroughly penitent. He is now ready to resign to the D. of Brunswick and to act under him.

This will be brought to you by two Austrian messengers whom you will be so good as to assist in getting over—they carry also good news—very large body, in small corps at a time and thro' different roads, are on their march to reinforce Clairfayt, and I still maintain my point all will do well if we act up to the collar. There is an idea that the mouth of the Weser will be open before that of the Elbe, and the Regency here have dispatched a messenger to reconnoiter.—Ever y^rs^ most truly and faithfully, MALMESBURY.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord MALMESBURY.

NESMER ZIEL, *Wednesday night, 11th Feb.*, 1795.

MY DEAR GOOD LORD,—I have the pleasure to return you my sincere thanks for two very kind and interesting letters from you brought to me the day before I left Minden by an Austrian courier. I only hope that my *Mercurial* will have served to prove the high price I set upon your friendship.

The intelligence you give me of the march of the Prussian troops towards the Lower Rhine is no less satisfactory than important. If I have been singular in my opinion that the King of Prussia himself has been acting with good faith, I have always at least been the first to see and to say that his *entourage* has led him into political errors, which have carried such an appearance of guilt with them as would be difficult to wash off. Now, however, that he appears to be coming forward *bonâ fide* I hope that we shall be ready to draw the sponge over past transactions and determine upon some vigorous measures for a future general co-operation, in which case (as I never doubted) we must succeed in our object, which want of conduct alone prevented our carrying long since. In our pourparlers at Osnabruck we settled that the Duke of Brunswick was the only person who could set all right and I conceive that by the present conduct of Prussia, all the obstacles which have been started upon the subject will be

removed, and as I also conceive that he is the person most agreeable to His Prussian Majesty, either to command his army or to preside at a Military Board, I should hope that on our side no time will be lost in coming to a speedy conclusion.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

ENGLAND: 1795–1798

ÆTAT. 24 TO 27

DURING his residence in England, which lasted till the autumn of 1798, Mr. Paget was by no means idle. In the first place he became M.P. for Anglesey, a seat in the gift of his father, Lord Uxbridge, and the correspondence shews that he was a faithful supporter of Mr. Pitt. He remained in Parliament during the time of his subsequent employment abroad, and curiously enough only relinquished his seat in favour of his brother Berkeley on his retirement from the Diplomatic Service in 1807, after his Embassy to the Dardanelles.

It would appear that during Mr. Paget's employment in Berlin Lord Uxbridge had consulted Lord Grenville as to the advisability of his son entering Parliament, and adopting political life at home, but certainly nothing could well be less encouraging of such a project than the answer returned by Lord Grenville (after conferring on the subject with Mr. Pitt) in the copy of the letter which I have found amongst the Papers and which, although without date, was evidently written while Mr. Paget was acting as Chargé d'Affaires in the Prussian capital.

This notwithstanding, he certainly did go into Parliament at some time during his stay in England (from 1795 to 1798) though I have nothing to show the precise date of his doing so, and, as already stated, he remained in the House of Commons until 1807. I have thought it better to insert Lord Grenville's letter in the correspondence of this period, rather than in that of 1794 when it was written, because it refers to Mr. Paget's home and not to his diplomatic career.

It would appear also that during his residence in England he exchanged his diplomatic for military duties

—a circumstance of which I was not aware until I came across a letter addressed to him in his capacity of Officer Commanding the Anglesea Militia on the 27th of June 1797, by direction of Major-General Crosbie, Commandant at Portsmouth, and directing him to have the regiment under arms the next morning, in case of any disturbance arising on the occasion of the execution at Spithead of two Mutinous Seamen who had lately been condemned.

When I first read this letter I was in some doubt whether it could really have been addressed to Mr. Paget, for it bears no name, but only "To the Officer Commanding the Anglesea Militia," &c. All doubt however was set at rest by a further letter addressed to him by name from the War Office in 1798, giving directions as to the clothing of the Regiment, and also by a letter from H.R. Highness the Duke of York in the same year, absolving him from any blame on account of his Regiment of Militia retracting its offer to serve in Ireland. There is further a letter from Mr. Paget, dated June 30, 1798, addressed to the officers of his Regiment on resuming its command, which he had apparently relinquished, probably in consequence of the incident referred to by the Duke of York.

Besides these letters two or three short notes from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, with a few letters from sporting friends, giving accounts of famous *runs* in Leicestershire, which may possibly have some interest for Sportsmen of the present day, are also included in the correspondence of this period.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Copy of letter from Lord GRENVILLE *to* Lord UXBRIDGE.*

MY DEAR LORD,—I have deferred answering y^r L^ps letter only because I was desirous of having an opportunity before I wrote to you on the subject to converse with Mr. Pitt upon it, after which I felt that I should be

* No date, but evidently written whilst Mr. Paget was at Berlin in 1794.

better able to answer the question you propose in such a manner as might not mislead y^r^ judgment on a point naturally so interesting to you. Having yesterday talked the business over with him we both agreed that, with the best and sincerest wishes to promote an object which you have at heart, and with a very favorable opinion of Mr. Paget's talents and character which his conduct at Berlin has much confirmed, we cannot think that the prospect of his being brought forward into active employment at home is such as would authorize us in friendship to your Lordship to advise his quitting his present line. Under those circumstances I should imagine that his coming into Parliament would not be likely to be of any material advantage to him, but that of course is a point on which it is more difficult for any one else to advise.

His stay at Berlin will certainly now be very little protracted. I am very glad he went there, because it has given him an opportunity of shewing himself to more advantage than he might have been enabled to do in many situations that in point of rank in the foreign line are higher. And altho' I have a very great objection to holding out anything like distinct expectations, before I see fully before me the means of carrying it into effect, I have no difficulty in saying to you that when he leaves Berlin I shall hope soon to see him again employed.

I can with great truth assure y^r^ Lordship that it is a real gratification to me to do anything that is agreeable to y^r^ wishes, and that in the instance of Mr. Paget that sentiment is increased by the personal opinion which I entertain of him. . . . . G.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

CLEVELAND ROW, *July* 20, 1796.

DEAR SIR,—It is now settled that Mr. Jackson shall succeed Mr. Liston as Ambassador at Constantinople, & as this appointment will vacate the secretaryship of Embassy at Madrid I lose no time in mentioning to you that if that situation would be agreeable to you I shall have great pleasure in submitting your name to His Majesty for it.—I am, &c., (Signed) GRENVILLE.

From H.R.H. *the* PRINCE OF WALES *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

Oct. 21, 1796.

MY DEAR ARTHUR,—I do not delay answering your kind letter a single moment & enclose a draft for the money which you will dispose of as you please. My intention is to be at Critchill on Wednesday evening & I have written to Featherstone* to meet me there. If your intention continues the same which I trust it does of being one of us, you can either meet me at some place on the road, Romsey or Ringwood, but if you come to Town and mean to go with me, you must come from London to Windsor Castle on Tuesday night where I will give you a Bed & some Supper, we will then set off the next morning at break of day. I beg my best compliments where you are, & am my dear Arthur with the greatest truth, your sincere & affectionate Friend.

(Signed) GEORGE.

CARLTON HOUSE.

From H.R.H. *the* PRINCE OF WALES *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

MY DEAR ARTHUR,—The inclosed you will find at least I trust so perfectly correct, except the difference of pounds & Guineas which I will settle with you when next we meet, as it is difficult to send that difference by the Post, having no small notes. I trust you will be in Town soon, my dearest Arthur, as I assure you that amongst the many who love you, there is no one who more truly misses your presence, than your sincerely affectionate, (Signed) GEORGE P.

CARLTON HOUSE, *June 5th*, 1797.

From Mr. BARCLAY *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

PORTSMOUTH, 27 *June*, 1797.

SIR,—I am directed by Major Genl. Crosbie to acquaint you *privately* that the Mutinous Seamen who were lately condemned are to be Executed to morrow sometime

* Sir Harry Featherstone, of Uppark, Sussex.—A.

'twixt 10 and 12 o'Clock at Spithead—therefore in case of any disturbance he requests that you will at that time have the Anglesea Regt. of Militia under your Command under arms. The General requests you will not give the least hint of this to any person but assemble your Corps under pretence of Inspection Exercise or any pretext you think proper. The General has no reason for alarm—nor does he wish any to be given—but it's best to be prepared in case of accidents. Please give instructions to your Guard at the Black house not to suffer people to come nigh them.—I have the honour to be, &c. DEN. BARCLAY.

To the Officer Comg. the Anglesea Militia Fort, Monkton.

From H.R.H. *the* PRINCE OF WALES *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

DEAR ARTHUR,—What is become of you, have you quite forgotten me, and your promise of coming here? I have been expecting you this fortnight, and have not even so much as received a single line from you. Let me know whether you are alive or not, *what you are about*, and whether you will come or not. If Chester or Bathurst are in Town, you may bring them with you. I shall not be in Town these ten days.—Most affectionately yours, (Signed) GEORGE.

CHRICHILL, *March 7th*, 1798.

From the WAR OFFICE *to* Major *the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[Circular.] WAR OFFICE, *7th May*, 1798.

SIR,—His Majesty having been pleased to order the Anglesea Militia under your Command to be completely clothed anew at Midsummer next, I have the honour to acquaint you therewith, and that to defray the charge of the said Clothing the like Allowances will be made to you as for the Clothing of the last year, for each Non-Commissioned Officer, Drummer and Private Man, borne on the old Establishment of the Corps.

The Supplementary Men (together with the additional Non-Commissioned Officers and Drummers if they have not been already supplied) are to be furnished with like

Clothing as the rest of the Corps, but the allowances on Account of their Clothing will only be granted for the actual Number of Suits supplied to the Effectives, for which reason you will direct that the Charges for the old Establishment and for the Supplementary Augmentation may be stated and vouched separately in the Accompts to be hereafter rendered to my Office.

I have also to mention in pursuance of Instructions from Mr. Secretary Dundas, that the necessaries authorised by his late Circular Letter to the Lords Lieutenants to be provided for the Men of the second Moiety of the Supplementary Militia on arrival at their destined Quarters, are to be taken as a part of the Full Clothing hereby directed to be furnished and to be paid for accordingly out of the Sums granted for the said Clothing.

You are at liberty to deliver the new Clothing for the Supplementary part of the Corps as soon as it can be got ready, although Midsummer is still to be considered as the regular Period of delivery.—I have the honor to be, &c., (Signed) W. WINDHAM.

The Hon. A. Paget, Major Comm^dt of the Anglesea Corps of Militia.

From H.R.H. *the* DUKE OF YORK *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

OATLANDS, *June* 23, 1798.

DEAR ARTHUR,—I have many thanks to return you for your letter, and knowing thoroughly your zeal and spirit can easily conceive how much you are hurt at the Anglesea Militia having retracted their offer to serve in Ireland.

I am thoroughly convinced that the Men have been worked upon by some infamous People at Liverpool, where I know there are many and who have endeavoured to make every Regiment of Fencibles, who had volunteered going to Ireland, mutiny as they embarked them.

However no blame or disgrace can in the least attach to you, and you are thoroughly justified in every thing which you have done.

Let me however recommend to you to consider well before you resign the command of the Regiment, for

though I am thoroughly sensible how mortified you are at their conduct, still as they are enlisted merely to serve in this Country, and as their Offer to serve in Ireland is purely voluntary, I do not think that any absolute blame can be laid to them.—Believe me ever, dear Arthur, yours most sincerely, (Signed) FREDERICK.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to the* OFFICERS OF THE ANGLESEA MILITIA REGIMENT.

UXBRIDGE HOUSE, *30th June, '98.*

GENTLEMEN,—Having judged it necessary to relinquish a Command which I did with reluctance only because I separated myself from a body of Officers who by their conduct upon a late occasion, as well as upon all others, had attached me to them, I felt persuaded that it would never again be my good fortune to place myself at your head—and I do assure you that the grief I felt at finding myself abandoned by the Men of my Regiment was only equalled by that of being obliged to take leave of my Officers.

I have read over and over the letter I had the Honor to receive from you three days ago, and while I admire the Sentiments of Loyalty and zeal with which it abounds, I am overcome by the flattering and pressing requests you make, that I should again belong to you. There is not a part of your letter that I do not fully feel the force of, still, Gentlemen, I must confess to you that it is on your account and your account only that I am again induced to resume the Command.

I have then by the approbation of the L^rd^. Lieutenant done so, and it is further my present Intention to prove this in person to you by joining you in the course of the next week. I cannot speak of this with as much certainty as I could wish, from being continually,—nay without intermission almost,—troubled with pain in my head, in consequence of a fall from my horse some weeks back—and which obliges me to live extremely low, and disables me from taking more than gentle exercise. Still, if I am equal to the journey I shall undertake it, I am sure you will do me the justice to believe, with real pleasure.

I have to acquaint you Gentlemen that in consequence of an application I have made by your desire to the Duke of York, H.R.H. has been graciously pleased to say that the Regiment shall be removed almost immediately from Liverpool.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. CECIL FORESTER *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

DEAR ARTHUR,—We have had some terrible sport since you went away. Saturday found at Cussington Spinny, went thro' Walton Town, turned to Barrow, where he stopt for them, went quick back by Cussington, over the Post and Rails to Thrupington, by Ashfordby, near Cants Thorns, Welby, Suponty, left Melton to the Right, and we lost him going towards the Spinny. Monday Met at Widmerpool, found at the Gorse by the place of meeting, went away over Hickling Hill, by Parsons Gorse by the two Broughtons, through Holywel Mouth, by the Holdings, through Melton Spinny, Brentingby Spinny, Waltham Pasture to the left, and we killed him close to Gadthrope, a very uncommon good run. This day with L^{d} W^{m} Lowther, met near Oakham, have had a very severe day. Villiers rode Willoughby's famous Papist, knocked him up and left him at S^{r} Gilbert Heathcote's, I did the same by Thrushborough and left him there, we whip'd Bradshaw's Nag into a Town, thus ends three very good days' sport. I shall start next Tuesday for Shropshire, shall remain there ten days, and then back to this place if the Weather is open.—Yours very sincerely,

CECIL FORESTER.

Tuesday Eve.

From the Hon. CECIL FORESTER *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

Thursday Eve.

DEAR ARTHUR,—I have this moment received yours, & can assure you its rather a Comp^{t} my writing, for I have hardly done dinner, but the Post goes out so early & I am fearful you would not have got this before you start upon Sunday, unless wrote immediately—depend upon one thing every Horse will knock up, & I believe

he is the best that tires last, half Brother to Washington cannot be a bad one, I really could hardly believe it when they told me. Shocking Weather since you left, & have lost nothing, not having been able to Hunt, owing to the Drifts of Snow which are terribly deep (I expect some of the little ones will be dug out). To-morrow we hunt with L^d^. W^m^. Lowther, & Saturday Meynell at Widmerpool, distress of course, Monday the Pychley Hounds will hunt near Harboro to accomodate us (pray come down & help to tackle those Potterers). Meynell meets at Lankton Candle Tuesday, you may depend upon my mounting you one day Nostrum Blanche or something good. To be sure I have managed very badly since I left Quorn. I won my Post Horses very well during my stay there but since that time, they have done me at Melton,—pray take care how you come on at Roley Poley, see which it takes to before you put your money on either, it generally runs every night on Black or Red, & if you observe a little before you stake your cash, perhaps you may travel Cheap, that's the only advice I can give you at this distance. I expect some rare fun at Harboro and intend living with you, such a dinner last Monday I never set down to, don't forget your Tin Pocket, my Comp^ts^ to all enquiring Fair ones.—And believe me, yours sincerely,

(Signed) CECIL FORESTER.

From the Hon. CECIL FORESTER *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

DEAR ARTHUR,—I have just two minutes to tell you we have this day had the best run of the Season, met at Lankton Candle at Twelve did not find, went to Stanton Wood, he went away immediately to Easton Park, Beaumont Chase, never saw Hounds run harder, went through without stopping over Uppingham open Field to Aringworth, and was whip'd off at Aringworth Park, near Rockingham Forest, my Mare was the only one that went all the way with the Hounds, S^r^ Hardy was up at the end, Billesdon Tuesday.—Yours, CECIL FORESTER.

Saturday Eve.

From the Hon. CECIL FORESTER *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

DEAR ARTHUR,—I do assure you, we have had two or three uncommon pretty runs since you left, and from the present Rain that's falling, are likely to have good Sport. Meynell had a most uncommon quick thing yesterday from Billesdon Coplow by Skeffington to Ground at Tilton. The Snow was so deep at Belvoir I did not go, supposing the Hounds would not come. Only Villiers Charles Somerset and some other Person got away with them, Germaine came up just before they went to Ground, from all accounts the pace was uncommon, Villiers rode Blue Berton and did him uncommonly, to-day we had a very quick run with the Rutlands from the three Queens to Stoke Pasture, where every Person got thrown out but Villiers Somerset and myself, and went home, the Hounds run very fast by Mr. Gregory's over the Posts and Rails towards Denton, from thence near Harleston back to Stoke Pasture, hardly ever out of view. I am afraid I have done Old Whipcord, you would have liked it much, on Thursday Meynells Hounds meet at Thrupington the Rutlands at Goadby, and Report says S^{r} W^{m} at Ranksboro, we are going to Cotesmore to-morrow, to know for certain and if possible to get a Bag Fox for Friday. On Saturday Meynell meets at Widmerpool, the Rutlands at Waltham, Charles and His Lady go to Belvoir on Friday so that at all events I shall expect to meet you at dinner there Friday, if not in the Field, Mongomery has sold his Grey to Mr. Price, two Hundred and fifty and another Horse. I do assure you that Charles Somerset rode many degrees harder this day than I thought was in his power and has been uncommon great ever since, he is determined to do the same every day.—
Yours very sincerely, CECIL FORESTER.

From Mr. C. LORAINE SMITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

DEAR ARTHUR,—Went not our hearts with you this morn to little Widmore! No sooner had we got there, but on the very first whimper a fox of the *wildest possible kind* "went away like a Pistol" and set his face

right over the Vale tipp'd us [*letter torn*] hill, Wastroby Hills Upper Broughton Hill; Then haste away my Boys for Melton Spinny, over the cover call'd the Holders; did not stop a moment in the Spinny but right away at the top for Greeby, Waltham, but left both the Covers to the left, and ran to ground betwixt Saltby and Garthrope—was too hot to stay in ground & bolted and was soon overtaken by the first pack of hounds that ever went over Leicestershire,

Nothing wanting (as was generally allow'd) to complete the thing, but your eager visage all over mud & black swet—Maynard & I kept a glass of *hot gin* for you until 2 o'clock this morning, & had good fires in the pavilion.

But in saying how much we lamented the loss of you let me not forget the tribute of general regret expressed by all at L[d] Paget's not partaking—such a straight forward run for a strapping man on a strapping nag to shine in has seldom been seen in the present century.

Friday next they meet at Walton Barns. Our picondo is ready, therefore God night to you old Boy.

(Signed) G. Loraine Smith.

Asfordby, *Monday*, 28, 6 *o'clock*.

MUNICH: 1798-99

ÆTAT. 27 TO 28

MR. PAGET was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Min. Plenipotentiary to the Elector of Bavaria and the Diet of Ratisbon in May 1798, but he did not join his Post till September in that year.

The principal purpose of his Mission was to induce the Bavarian Government to join with Austria and the Coalition in the impending War with France, which Power having over-run and subdued Switzerland, had forced it into an offensive and defensive alliance, and was in occupation of the Grisons.

With what persevering energy Mr. Paget worked to carry out his instructions may be gathered from the official correspondence, and a letter which he addressed to the Bavarian Commander in Chief, General Zedwitz, at the moment of the latter's departure for a Conference with the Austrian General Staaden, urgently pressing upon him the inutility of employing his Army on the Lech, which could not fail to be interpreted otherwise than as an abandonment by Bavaria of the Common Cause. The Austrian Archduke Charles came to Munich about this time, and in Mr. Paget's despatches will be found reports of several very interesting conversations he had with H.R.H. respecting the policy and proceedings of the Electoral Government.

Mr. Paget's discussions with the Bavarian Ministers had not proceeded far before the usual complaint of want of money was raised, and hints thrown out that subsidies should be furnished by Great Britain, the habitual provider of that commodity to all the impecunious Governments of Europe. Any expectations, however, which may have been entertained by the Elector or the Government of Bavaria of obtaining pecuniary assistance from the

British Government were at once nipped in the bud by Mr. Paget. The previous conduct of the Bavarian Government had not been such as to entitle them to any such consideration.

In the early part of the year 1799, Mr. Paget's recall was applied for after the accession of the Duke de Deux Ponts as Elector of Bavaria. The manner in which Lord Grenville met this request, when addressed to him by the Bavarian Minister in London, will be seen by His Lordship's letter to Mr. Paget, as well as by the very flattering terms in which His Lordship expressed to him "the very great satisfaction which I have derived from every part of your conduct at Munich which has yet come before me."

To the above circumstances Mr. Paget was very probably in some measure indebted for his *immediate* nomination to the important Mission at Berlin, which followed in a letter three days later—to which Post, however, it is clear from Lord Grenville's subsequent letters, he did not proceed owing to other arrangements in the Service. Besides these letters from Lord Grenville, a very flattering and interesting one will be found from Mr. Canning, then Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

There is nothing to show the precise date when Mr. Paget left Munich, but there is a short note to him from Lord Grenville, dated the 12th of May, asking him to call upon him as soon as possible, and he remained in England until the beginning of the following year, when he was appointed to Palermo.

Amongst the miscellaneous correspondence of this period will be found letters from the Prince of Wales, remarkable for the effusive expressions of friendship and attachment which they contain for Mr. Paget, expressions which are indeed repeated in every letter from His Royal Highness, and which testify to the extraordinary popularity which he then enjoyed in society, a popularity which, as will be seen by the correspondence, followed him to every country he went to. Mr. Paget was fortunately wise enough not to follow His Royal Highness's advice, so often and so persistently urged, to give up the Diplomatic Profession.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

CLEVELAND ROW, *May 12th*, 1798.

DEAR SIR,—By the resignation of Mr. Eliot, the post of Ratisbon* and Munich is vacant. If it would be agreeable to you I shall have great pleasure in submitting your name to His Majesty for it.—Believe me ever, &c.,

(Signed) GRENVILLE.

From Mr. WILLIAM GARTHSHERE† *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

WIMBLEDON, *Sep. 28th*, 1798.

MY DEAREST ARTHUR,—I received yours of the 17th only yesterday—and am happy to find that you had then accomplished so much of yr. expedition at least safely—this will I trust find you safe landed at Munich. You seem to think most unjustly that I have no bowels of compassion for you, upon your leaving England—the fact is that I believe no human being regrets it more but, seeing as I did the necessity for yr. going unless you gave up that line,—I did think that it was not right to linger,—and put off yr. departure—as the thing was to be done at last. I am not the only one of yr. friends that thought so—the Duke of York in a letter which I received from him the other day expressed precisely the same sentiment. I never conceived that Munich would turn out a gay séjour. I hope it may more so than I expected—but I looked upon it as a step in the Ladder which was to conduct you to the top gallant of yr. hopes.

I have no news to send you—there is no certain confirmation of the account of Nelson's Victory—there can be I think no doubt of it and this seems to be the general opinion. If the thing is so—I conceive that there is an end of every idea of his Expedition proceed-

* The seat of the old Imperial Diet, in which the Envoy represented the Elector of Hanover.

† Mr. Garthshere was a great friend of Lord Uxbridge and his family. He belonged to the Prince of Wales's "set," and is frequently mentioned in H.R.H.'s letters to Mr. Paget.—A. P.

ing further than Egypt. You will find I presume upon the Continent that every thing breathes War—we have at last (à ce que l'on dit) offered a Million to the Emperor of Russia for 60,000 Men—I hope he may be at last tempted to stand forward.

Yr. friend the Prince is I understand behaving very well in Kent, by making himself, as he can do, very popular. Little Tom Tyrrwhitt* (but do not repeat this from me) has I suspect made an offer of his person to my friend Jane Saunders and has been rejected—so a little bird warbles to me, but I hate to think or write of marriages now that you are gone.—Ever yours.

(Signed) W. G.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 2.] MUNICH, *October 4th*, 1798.

I had the honor to present my Letters of Credence in the usual form on Sunday last to His Electoral Highness. This Court at this moment presents a most variegated political scene, so much so that I feel myself as yet incapable of forming a direct judgment upon its views. The fear of France,† a want of confidence in Austria, and on that account a leaning towards Prussia, form the principal features, and in saying this I notice the sentiments of the most moderate People only, for I am ashamed to think that there exist men in this country, who, little less than publickly, espouse the French cause.

The States, who have lately been in general in direct opposition to the Elector, are supported by French Councils seconded by Prussia.

Much merit is claimed by this Ministry for having refused to accept Mr. Alquier's‡ credential letters, but when one beholds the measures that have been adopted at the instance of that man, such language as I have had occasion to observe in speaking upon the subject is an

* Aide-de-Camp to the Prince of Wales.—A. P.

† By the treaty of Campo Formio, Oct. 17, 1797, the first Coalition had been broken up; and France had secured the Austrian Netherlands, the Ionian Islands, and the Venetian fleet.

‡ French Agent. Baron Aliquier, deputy to the Tiers Etat, member of the Constituent Assembly; in the Convention voted for the death of Louis XVI.; afterwards Minister in Madrid, and later in Naples.

insult to common sense, [*Cypher*] for it is literally in consequence of a most insolent remonstrance which I have seen very lately made by the above-named Frenchman, and seconded by the Duke of Deux-Ponts* and the States, that the augmentation, or more properly speaking the completion of the Bavarian Army, has been for the present stopped.

The question has been circuitously conveyed to me whether it was the intention of England to subsidise this Country, which I have had no hesitation in answering in the negative. [*Cypher ends.*]—I have the honour to be, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

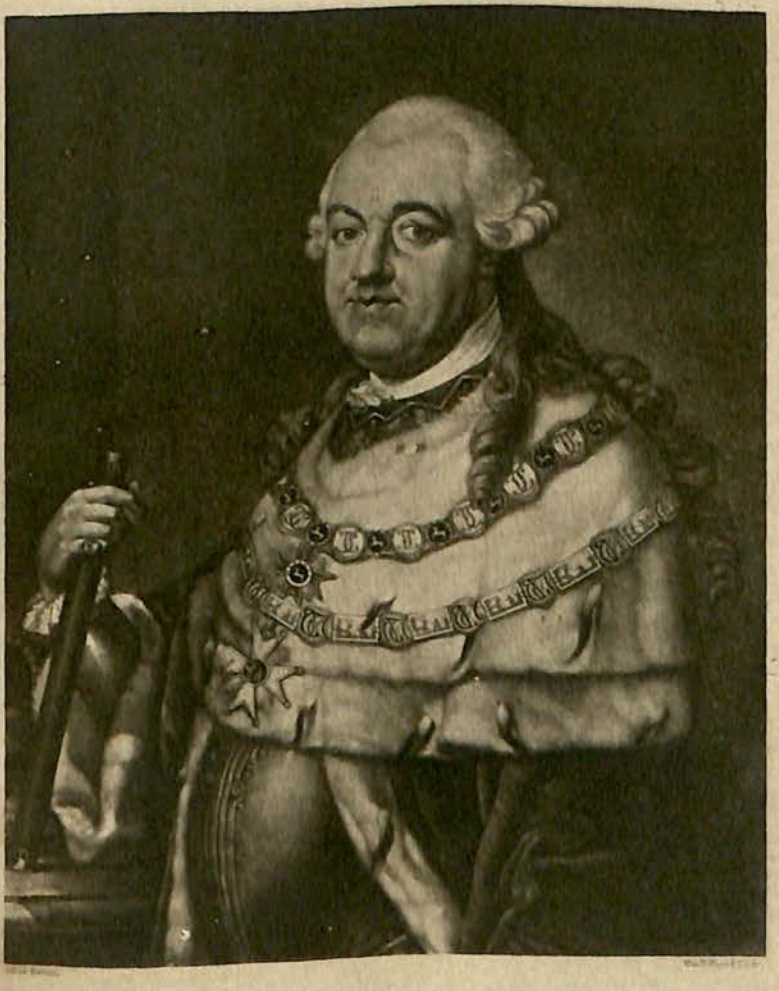
MUNICH, 10 *October*, 1798.†

MY LORD,—Since I wrote last I have had a very long and detailed conversation with Count Hompesch, one of His Electoral Highness's Ministers, who introduced the subjects which came before us by lamenting the unexpected reception Count Rumford‡ had met with in England (though the objection was fully admitted and the Elector's having recalled him repeated to me), the more so as he enjoyed the greatest personal friendship and strictest confidence of the Elector, who on that account, and at this particular juncture, had chosen that gentleman for his Minister at the Court of London. Count Hompesch then asked me if I thought that Count Rumford, laying aside his official capacity, would be allowed to treat with His Majesty's Ministers. To this I could only reply in general terms, that I conceived any person incompatible to transact the business of his own

* The heir to the Principality.

† When Mr. Paget was appointed to Munich, Napoleon had just sailed from Toulon, captured Malta, and carried his fleet on to Egypt. By the time, however, that Mr. Paget reached his post the battle of the Nile had been fought; and the English victory had opened the possibility of building up a new coalition in Europe against France. After the loss of Holland, the importance of holding Bavaria was greatly increased.

‡ Born in Woburn, Massachusetts; began life as a clerk, 1753; stood by the Royalists in the American troubles; came to England and became Under Secretary of the Colonies. In 1784 he entered the Bavarian service, rose to be Minister of War, and re-organised the army. He was devotedly attached to science and economics, and the Rumford Medal of the Royal Society is in his memory.



CARL THEODOR.

ELECTOR OF BAVARIA.

Court at the Court of a Foreign Prince to whom he was not accredited, but this gave me an opportunity of touching slightly upon the general Character of Count Rumford, which I observed to be such as in my opinion would be an additional reason for His Majesty not to wish him to appear in any thing like a Ministerial situation at His Court. I therefore hoped that this point might not be urged, which Count Hompesch immediately assented to, though I promised to name the Elector's wishes to Your Lordship. Conceiving that there must be some more than common reason for wishing so strongly to employ Count Rumford in England, I expressed such my Idea to Count Hompesch, who frankly owned to me that the particular object of his mission, independent of cultivating more than ever the friendship which subsisted between the two Courts, would have been the raising of Money. I availed myself of this opening to say that under the present circumstances, or indeed almost any other, I could not imagine what expectation this Court could have of meeting with the acquiescence of the English Government in a Money Negociation in that Country; that if it were for a subsidy I took upon me to say that none would be granted; if for a loan, I apprehended that the general weak and uncertain conduct of this Country since the commencement of the War by no means entitled it to the particular mark of favour and protection on the part of the English Government, which its assistance on such an occasion would be. I therefore on a general view of the subject recommended any hopes that might hitherto have been entertained on this point to be given up, at least as far as regarded the interference of his Majesty's Ministers, in doing which I sincerely trust that I have acted in conformity to Your Lordship's sentiments. But I could not allow this opportunity to pass without entering upon the present state of this Country and particularly of the Army, which I urged most strongly, and with my utmost ability, the necessity under all the possible circumstances that could arise, of completing, and in doing this I took upon me to express the sentiments of my Court to that effect. The want of means at this moment was urged, of course alluding to the particular object of Count Rumford's Mission, already

named. To this I answered by putting a case, and which I begged to be considered literally as such. Supposing England to be disposed to assist the views of this Court in raising money for the purpose of prosecuting the War, I apprehended that it would be a *conditio sine quâ non*, that the army should be encreased to its full establishment. Count Hompesch assured me that he had been using his utmost efforts, and employing the most laborious exertions towards this end, and promised me at the same time that he would now redouble them for the execution of it. But my Lord, there are difficulties thrown in the way of every measure of this government, which can alone be removed by the removal of the Persons who create them. As I have already had occasion to mention, there exists a difference between the Elector and the States, which is fomented by the secret infernal machinations of a sect called the Illuminés,* which though not so openly employed, is to all intents and purposes as active in its operation as ever it was in the time of Weishaup, who flourished some years back in Bavaria at the head of that diabolical Institution. Of those who compose these States there is one Count Arco, in some respects a clever man, but a most violent Jacobin, who personally detests the Elector, pays his Court to the Duke of Deux-Ponts, but whom he equally detests, and who having great preponderance in the States confirms their opposition to the Elector with a view, I do not hesitate to say, of ultimately overturning the present form of Government. Of the other Members, they consist almost unexceptionably of persons who are averse to the adoption of any step in conjunction with Austria on account of their distrust of that Power, and also consequently endeavour to defeat any measure proposed for a co-operation with it.

Under these circumstances it is doubtless no easy task for any one Minister or set of Ministers at once to restore the natural shape and vigour to a Government already so mutilated, but I have received the satisfaction of the strongest assurances from the most efficient Minister under it, I mean Count Hompesch, that nothing shall be left undone on his part to forward the vigorous measures

* See despatch, July 26, 1794.

necessary to be adopted in order to resist the further encroachments of the common enemy, and by the same act frustrate the evil designs of a domestic foe.—I have the honor to be, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[No. 3.] DOWNING STREET, 29 *October*, 1798.

SIR,—Your Dispatches Nos. 1. 2. and 3 have been received and laid before the King.

His Majesty is pleased to approve of the manner in which you have executed your instructions relative to Count Rumford's nomination.

You have done perfectly right in discountenancing at the first mention of it all idea whatever of a subsidy from this Country to Bavaria, and have very properly availed yourself of the opportunity afforded by Monsieur de Vieregg's bringing it forward to represent in its true light the weak and irresolute conduct of the Court of Munich during the contest with France, and the ill impression which it cannot fail to have given of the views and character of the Bavarian Government.

You will not fail to apprize me of any appearance of the adoption of a system more consonant to the true honor and interests of the Elector, such as alone can insure the safety of His Dominions, or give weight to any overtures which it might be possibly the wish of the Bavarian Government to make for concert with Great Britain.—I am, &c., (Signed) GRENVILLE.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to the* Comte DE ZEDWITZ.*

[Copie.] À MUNICH, 31 *Octre.* 1798.

MON GENERAL,—Je prens la chose tellement à cœur que comme je ne veux pas vous incommoder par une visite, je ne puis m'empêcher d'écrire deux mots à Votre Excellence.

Vous allez ce soir décider si l'Armée Bavaroise prendra un part actif dans la Guerre qui paroit vouloir s'éclater de nouveau, ou bien si elle restera spectatrice des operations de Son Allié.

* Commander-in-Chief of Bavarian forces.

Concentrer Votre Armée sur le *Lech*, c'est de dire à l'Europe que fatigué de la continuation de la Guerre (c'est la construction la plus favorable) vous désirez de tirer votre épingle du jeu, et par là d'abandonner l'Union Générale qui seule peut resister au système désolateur de l'Ennemi commun. Je laisse à votre propre Jugement et à votre candeur, qui m'est bien connue, de prononcer si pareille conduite peut être regardée autrement qu'inimicale aux Intérêts non seulement de toutes les Puissances qui font cause commune dans la Guerre, mais aux Intérêts et à l'honneur de l'Electeur,—surtout à un epoque où toutes les Cours de l'Europe (il y en a certainement desquelles le danger est plus éloigné qu'il ne l'est de la Bavière) convaincues de la necessité impérieuse d'une coalition, se concertent sur les mésures à prendre contre un Ennemi qui a pour objet rien, moins qu'un bouleversement Général.

Il n'est pas trop tard de ramener l'ancien caractère des Bavarois deja un peu flétri par le passé, et c'est vous, Mon General, qui êtes designé pour accomplir cet ouvrage honorable. Mais il ne dépendra pas de V.E. de le faire par l'execution seule des mésures proposées dans les dernières Conferences. Je veux dire, *de retirer votre contingent de Manheim et du païs de Berg, pour l'incorporer avec les Troupes deja dans l'Electorat.* Il est important (et je presume qu'on l'exigera) de transporter l'Armée Bavaroise sur la même ligne qu'occupent les Autrichiens, par là de conserver l'integrité des Possessions *qui vous restent*, et en même tems de prouver la bonne Intelligence de cette Cour d'agir de concert avec Son Allié naturel. Je crains que l'action simple de concentrer l'Armée sur le Lech, ne démontreroit le Revers de la Medaille.

Je demande excuse de Votre Excellence de la peine que je Lui donne, Elle sera je me flatte convaincue que mon zéle extreme, et mon desir ardent pour le bien de ce païs en commun avec le reste de l'Europe, seuls m'engagent à lui écrire. La conviction dans laquelle je suis que les mêmes motifs influent sur toutes Vos Actions, Mon General, me fait croire que je serai pardonné.

Il ne me reste que de répéter les Sentimens de

Respect et d'Estime avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être.—
Mon General de Votre Excellence L. P. H. & T. O. S.—
(Signed) A. PAGET.

N.B.—I sent the above to Gen[l] Zedwitz just as he was setting out to meet the Austrian Gen[l] Staaden with whom he was to settle a plan for the movement of the Troops. Gen[l] Zedwitz was, I know, instructed to press for the Bavarian Troops not to advance beyond the Lech. They might as well be on the River St. Lawrence!!! (Signed) A. P.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 6.] MUNICH, *4th November*, 1798.

MY LORD,—This day being the anniversary of the Elector's Name's Day, the same is observed as is usual, in a private manner by the Electoral Family at the Country Residence of Nymphenbourg.

For some time past the Elector has been very uneasy respecting his troops and Artillery at Mannheim, and has had much at heart the withdrawing them from thence, in consequence of which some correspondence has taken place between General Zedwitz, Commander in chief of the Bavarian Forces, and the Austrian General Staaden. An interview took place three days ago at some distance from hence between Count Zedwitz and General Meerfeldt (who was sent for the purpose by General Staaden) upon the subject, as well as to confer upon the disposition of the Bavarian Army in case of hostilities. With respect to the first point, the Austrian General refused to allow the withdrawing the Troops and Cannon from Mannheim, asserting, as is the case, that the former form the Elector's Contingent, consequently at the disposal of the Emperor, and recommending that both should be removed to the fort of Philippsbourg, which has been taken *ad referendum*. As to the second and more essential point nothing is, or I fear will be at present, satisfactorily concluded. For besides the usual pretext of want of Money, a pretended diffidence in Austria has of late been alleged, a circumstance which meets with strenuous and numberless

supporters. I have, however, this opinion of the Persons composing the States, and of the leading People in general of the Country, that were the Elector to connect himself as closely with Prussia as He now is with the Court of Vienna, the former would, upon the same principle of opposition, equally endeavour to distress and thwart the existing Administration of the Country.

The Archduke Charles is expected here every day in His way to the Army.

I understand that the Treasury, etc. belonging to the Regency of Brisgaw has been removed to Guntzberg on the Danube. The Government and Regency have received an intimation to hold themselves in readiness to follow it.—I have the honor, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 7.] MUNICH, *8th November*, 1798.

MY LORD,—The Archduke Charles * arrived here last Sunday Night, and set off on Saturday for Friedberg. His Imperial Highness during His stay has been entertained every day at Court. The arrival of this Prince at Munich, being in his way to the Army, has of course given room for various conjectures as to the probability of the recommencement of the War, but it is to be presumed from His Imperial Highness remaining a week at Munich that His presence with the troops is not a case of pressing necessity; furthermore it is the Archduke's intention simply to visit the Cordon, and return or not to Lintz as circumstances may require.

[*Cypher.*] I had the honor to be admitted to a private audience of His Imperial Highness this morning. He told me that He had given it clearly to be under-

* Born September 5, 1771, died April 20, 1844; son of Leopold II. and grandson of Maria Theresa; he began his military career in Brabant in 1793, where he commanded the advanced forces of Coburg's army. He became Field-Marshal in 1796 and Commander-in-Chief of the Austrian army on the Rhine. He won some successes over Moreau and Jourdan and captured Kehl in 1797. He was then despatched to Italy to encounter Bonaparte, but the preliminaries of Leoben soon began and he was left inactive for a time. Napoleon greatly respected his genius as a strategist, while he was at the same time honoured throughout Europe as the very highest type of a Christian knight and gentleman.

stood here that in the event of War being declared in the Empire this Court must take a decided part, and that if at that time the same backwardness should manifest itself which had hitherto appeared he should not hesitate to enroll the whole of the Bavarian Army with the non-commissioned officers into the Austrian Regiments, and dismiss the Officers. I took the liberty of suggesting to his Imperial Highness the absolute necessity there was of getting rid of some Persons, whom I pointed out, before any good could be done here, a measure which His Imperial Highness agreed in the expediency of, and promised to use His utmost efforts to get done. I am sorry to say that the Electress upon every occasion shows Her partiality to the most obnoxious, and the people the most violent in their opposition. The Archduke has used the most spirited and even menacing language to the Members of the Government with whom he has conversed, so that some good may be expected, at least as far as regards Military operations. Much pretended uneasiness has lately prevailed here from a supposition that it was the Emperor's Intention to extend His Possessions as far as the River Inn, including the Bishopric of Saltzbourg, and the Salt Works, which are the most valuable possessions belonging to the Elector, but the Archduke Charles assured me that such a plan was not in agitation. During this Interview our conversation was for the most part confined to the affairs of this Country. His Imperial Highness however was pleased to say that he should be very glad to see me at His Head Quarters, which will be for the present at Friedberg, if ever I had anything to communicate to him.

I have heard from very good authority that His Imperial Highness complained much of the manner in which affairs are carried on at Vienna, that the Empress and Monsieur Thugut* govern entirely, that the Emperor is wholly guided by them, and that He himself is deceived by them.

A report is prevalent that the French Mission is about

* Austrian Vice-Chancellor. He was a boatman's son, born at Leury. Having graduated in all the diplomatic departments, he became assistant to Kaunitz, and succeeded that most able Chancellor.

to take its departure, an event of which the Ministry here are uninformed. [*Cypher ends.*]

When on my arrival here the question of the credit and the means which this country possessed of raising money was agitated, Count Hompesch, among other ideas, mentioned one which was whether a Sum might not be raised in England upon a mortgage of the Gallery of Dusseldorf. Upon that as upon other occasions I gave him to understand as my opinion that the English Government would not be desirous of entering into any money negociations with this Country, and advised him if possible to find out some more private channel by which such a loan might be negociated. I find since that recourse has been had to Sir Morton Eden and Mr. Quintin Crawford, to whom the same project for securing a supply has been submitted.—I have the honour, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. HUGH ELLIOT* *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

DRESDEN, 10*th Nov.* 1798.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am much indebted to you for your kind remembrance amidst the hurry of your first début at Munich. I scarcely know whether I ought to congratulate you or to send you my compliments of condolence upon your return to the diplomatic oar. To me at least it has in the course of Twenty Six Years political exile been but an unprofitable instrument in my unskilful hands, I hope you will continue to steer a better course than I have done.

My present situation is uniform in the extreme, and does not afford any materials either for your information or amusement. The only circumstance I have learnt of late, which can at all interest you, is the march of the Austrian Regiments from this frontier of Bohemia towards Bavaria. Whether with a view to the recommencement of hostilities† or for other purposes our Politicians here are not sufficiently in the secret to decide.

I have made a considerable addition to my family by

* Minister at Dresden.

† The negotiations of Rastadt were going on September 1797–April 1799.

declaring my marriage with the Mother of my Seven children. This, as well as other reasons, make me very desirous of obtaining a leave of absence to settle my private affairs in England. Should I succeed in my application for this purpose I expect that Gray will return here, though he fights as shy as possible.—Believe me, &c., (Signed) H. ELLIOT.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 8.] MUNICH, 11 *November*, 1798.

[*Cypher.*] MY LORD,—Since the Archduke Charles' arrival frequent Conferences have been held among the Ministers and the Commander in chief of the Troops, but nothing satisfactory has hitherto been determined upon; on the contrary, in the last this morning, I hear that much opposition and ill-will was displayed, but I am not without hopes that fear,* as no more honorable sentiment seems to actuate it, will compel this Government to adopt something like vigorous measures, and the Archduke is by no means disposed to relax in those He has proposed to be followed by this Court.

I think it right to mention an expression which fell from His Imperial Highness when I had last the honor of conversing with Him. In speaking to Him of the different Parties which exist in this Country, I remarked that many had attached themselves to the Prussian Interest from a persuasion that Prussia would not consent to the further aggrandisement of Austria at the expense of Bavaria, a system which was pretended to be much dreaded. His Imperial Highness said that such Persons were grossly deceived in their calculations, as the best understanding possible existed between Austria and Prussia upon the particular subject.

This Court has now I find endeavoured through Monsieur Thugut to obtain a Subsidy from England, I also understand that the Minister has promised to use his good offices. I have already had the honor to inform Your Lordship that I have more than once given

* The Leman Republic was proclaimed by the French, January 1798; and the Roman Republic, February 1798. Armies were sent to occupy Naples and Turin in September 1798.

it unequivocally to be understood that such a proposition would by no means be listened to by the Government I serve. [*Cypher ends.*]—I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the PRINCESS TOUR & TAXIS * *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

RATISBONE, *le* 12 *Nov.* 1798.

MONSIEUR,—Quoi qu'il semble que Vous voulies échapper à mes remercimens, il m'est impossible de ne pas Vous exprimer toute ma reconnoissance du charmant cadeau que vous m'avés fait parvenir d'une manière si aimable: il me causeroit un plaisir infini s'il ne me laissoit le regret de ne pas connoitre personellement celui qui me l'a destiné, j'espere, Monsieur, que Vous ne nous laisserés plus longtems dans l'attente et que nous aurons bientôt la satisfaction de vous voir ici. Le Prince de la Tour n'en sera pas moins charmé que moi et il me sera infiniment agréable de vous réitérer mes remercimens de bouche et de vous assurer des sentimens distingués avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être.—Monsieur Votre très humble Servante,

THÉRÈSE P^sse HÉRÉDITAIRE DE LA TOUR,
Duchesse de Mecklenbourg Strelitz.

From H.R.H. *the* DUKE OF CUMBERLAND *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

ST. JAMES'S, *Nov.* 14*th*, 1798.

DEAR ARTHUR,—I return you many thanks for your letter and the enclosed from my old friend, who if she is not altered was a remarkable handsome Woman, and the most amiable Creature possible. My brother told me he had a letter from you, the most melancholy one, giving a woeful description of Munich and its Beauties. After England I can easily conceive this possible, however, a man who knows Womankind like you will perfectly sound them. One of our beauties here is dying, Minny

* Sister of the beautiful Queen Louisa of Prussia, who was so infamously treated by Napoleon in 1806, after Jena.—A. P.

Ogilvey. Mrs. Burnie said she was dying, *tant pis, ma foi.* We regret you very much, and the Dinners at Carlton House never forget drinking a bumper to Arthur. Yours most sincerely, (Signed) ERNEST.

From H.R.H. *the* PRINCE OF WALES *to the* Hon. ARTHUR PAGET.

Nov. 18, 1798.

The first moment I have had to myself since the receipt of your last Letter my dearest Arthur I dedicate to you. To tell you my Friend how I miss you, & how often during the four & twenty hours, is impossible; every event of life, every, even the smallest occurrence, not that I want any memento to remind me of You, recalls You perpetually to my recollection. When I parted with you my feelings were most cruelly uncomfortable, but I well knew from sad experience that as on other galling occasions, so on this of my parting with You for some time, the less that is said the better, for when two persons are as thoroughly persuaded of the steady friendship & affection they have for each other, as I think You & I have no small right to be, it only tends to unman one to the World, worries one's nerves, & cannot encrease that which is graven on the heart. You mention having seen in the papers that I had met with an accident; it is true, but thank God has not been attended with any very serious or bad consequences; it was a Mare I bought of Houghton, the Horse dealer in Chapel Street, & which I believe You may recollect the Duke of Bedford gave up to me in the kindest manner possible last Spring, that fell with me, by putting her foot upon a rolling flint as I was cantering her on the road to Canterbury, & after having recovered Her once She met with another unfortunate Stone which threw her quite down with her head so much under her & so suddenly, that her ears were laid forward upon her face & almost all the Hair taken off of *the back* of them by ploughing the ground with her Head. Of course I could not retain my Seat any longer but went over her head; however the Mare did not roll over me, but I unfortunately hung by my Spur in one of Charles Somerset's

cursed large saddle-cloaths, so that when the Mare rose up again She drew me completely under her, with my Head & face immediately between her two fore feet, & her hind legs one on my right shin bone, the other on my left thigh. She then, either from fright or vice, indeed I believe a little from both, struck at me repeatedly with her fore feet, which I warded off by my hands & arms, striking at her fore legs as frequently & repeatedly as I could, in order to endeavour by this method to make her fly from me & by that means extricate my left leg which still continued hanging & fastend to the Cloath. At last my right leg somehow or other got from under her hind foot, & being free, I can not tell how, I fortunately struck her in the face with the Spur on that heel just in the Nose, which made her rear with such violence as almost to fall back, by which means & the violent exertion she made my left leg was extricated by the piece of the saddle-cloath giving way & coming out upon the end of the neck of the Spur, but not till the heel of the boot was torn from the boot. The Mare afterwards jumped short round and kicked at me twice, she cut the inside of my left Arm very much so as to leave the Sinews bare, & which I put up to protect my head. She also, when striking at me with her fore feet, just missed my Temple, grazing my left eyebrow & slightly cutting my face from the eyebrow to the cheek bone ; thus I suppose, my dearest Arthur, I had through the protection of Providence the most wonderful escape that ever Man met with, & really when one considers the accident, the trifling mischief I sustained is really not worth while bestowing the consideration of an instant upon. I should not have been thus prolix, but I really have vanity enough to flatter myself that you will feel yourself interested in the details when you know how nearly the life of one of your very best Friends, my dearest Arthur, and Wellwishers was nearly gone.

We have not an attom of news stirring in the political world, but even if there was I naturally presume that it must have arrived at your cognizance before ever it could reach our ears, situated as you are at the seat, & there is but one article in the *chronique scandaleuse*, which I suppose also must have reached you before this

Letter will, & that is the elopement of Lady Abercorn with Copley. Anything more than the mere circumstance I can not relate, as nothing else has as yet transpired, *mais je crois que vous n'en serez point surpris.* As to the Horse you mention pray buy Him if upon riding Him you like Him & if he is a stone Horse, but at any rate try if you can, dear Arthur, to pick me up a foreign Horse or two, *bien dressé* & strong. I had rather they were Polish or Turkish Horses than of any other Nation, & Grey, black or chesnut than of any other colour. I know there are such to be picked up now & then among the Hussar Officers, & if you see or hear of anything of the sort I have not the smallest doubt of your exerting yourself. By the by I hear that Elgin is certainly not to go back to Berlin, therefore perhaps you would do wisely to mention it in a Letter to Lord Grenville as a report that had reached you, & laying in a claim to succeed him in the case that what you had heard should prove true. On looking back I perceive my dearest Arthur that I have already most unmercifully trespassed upon your patience by the unconscionable length to which I have spun out this Letter, it is therefore high time to relieve you from the sight of my scrawl. I will therefore only add that I trust you will rest assured, it is out of the nature of human affairs, for any one Man to love another with more true affection than you are, my dearest Arthur, by your ever affectionate GEORGE.

CARLTON HOUSE, *Nov. 18th*, 1798.

P.S.—I saw Lady Uxbridge & Louisa yesterday, & L[d] Uxbridge desired me to say everything that could be most kind & cordial from him; as for the other two you may suppose of course that they breath'd all kindness.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 9.] MUNICH, 18 *November*, 1798.

[*Cypher.*] MY LORD,—A paper was certainly presented by the Archduke Charles for the Elector's signature, containing articles by which this Court is bound to take a decisive part in the event of War, and in the meantime

to complete the Army and put it into a state for immediate service. This the Elector refused to sign till the Emperor had guaranteed His present possessions, and an indemnification at the end of the War. It was however insisted upon, the Elector yielded, and the Piece has been sent to Vienna. The Archduke himself told me that he had the greatest difficulty in persuading the Elector to put His Signature, and that he has not succeeded without being obliged to use the most threatening language. It is however expected that the Court of Vienna will in return give the assurances required by the Elector. The Ministers pretend that the Archduke Charles went away perfectly satisfied with what he had done during His stay here, but I know from His Imperial Highness, that the reverse is the case. [*Cypher ends.*]

The sum expected to be raised from the Ecclesiastical Revenues is fifteen millions of florins, and a commission is now sitting for the final arrangement of this new Tax. —I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 10.] MUNICH, 22 *November*, 1798.

[*Cypher.*] MY LORD,—It is perfectly unusual for the Elector to discourse upon political subjects with any of the Foreign Ministers. It is upon this account that I think it incumbent upon me to acquaint Your Lordship that I had yesterday a very long conversation with His Electoral Highness. I did not neglect this opportunity of bringing forward the subject of the Contest with France and the part which this country had hitherto taken in it. The most material topics I have ever discussed with His Minister I also brought forward. In speaking of the internal enemies of this Government, particularly Count Arco* (I really beg Your Lordship's pardon for naming this Man so often), the Elector not only agreed but reprobated their system if possible in stronger Language. He said that he had a thousand proofs of Count Arco's guilt, but not a single legal proof. I nevertheless insisted most strongly upon the necessity

* See despatch of Oct. 10.

of getting rid of him, and also of expelling once more from these Dominions the Illuminés, a sect whose diabolical Principles are almost universally spread, particularly throughout the higher classes of the Community. I observed that at moments the Elector was extremely agitated and affected. He said, "you know not what I have to struggle against, and one of the sources of my misery is when I consider the Person who is to succeed me." In the course of conversation His Electoral Highness spoke of Count Rumford in a way which obliged me to repeat everything I had occasion to observe upon the subject to His Ministers. Having dwelt some time upon these and other topicks, I returned once more to that of the War, and asked the Elector what were his real intentions in the event of its breaking out. His Electoral Highness's answer was, "You may be perfectly assured that I will never depart from the good and true system." I am sorry to say that it has been generally remarked that the Elector's health has lately appeared to decline; but He seems to me to suffer more from anxiety of Mind than infirmity of body, a malady which at His advanced age may prove equally fatal.

It is imagined here that Monsieur Stieger has been furnished by England with money for raising a body of Troops. It is of course hoped and expected that those of the Elector of Bavaria will be subsidized.—I have the honor, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From Mr. THOS. TYRWHITT *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

Nov. 23.

DEAR ARTHUR PAGET,—His Royal Highness has commanded me to see the enclosed safe to the Foreign Post Office—thank God He was never better, or in better spirits. You were luckily out of the way when he had the shocking fall at Canterbury, but pray give him a Hint (which will be attended to) to be somewhat more cautious as to the strength of the Horses He rides.

It is quite impertinent in one like myself to attempt to give you any news, well knowing the numerous Correspondents you have, all of them more able to get at the state of things than I am. The Sieur Brommell is

arrived in Town, with his neck much reduced in point of size by bathing, He is much alarmed at the Idea of joining his Corps, which however if he continues in it must shortly take place.

Opposition never were so low, all those who purchazed Seats are selling as well as they can, Beauclerk gave £5000 and has sold for £2000 to Shakespear. None of the chief men to appear again—Erskine, Fox, and Sheridan were not present the first day—by Accident this Morning I met Whitbread who told me that His Session was over.

I will bore you no longer, but request you to believe me with great regards, very sincerely yours,

(Signed) THOS. TYRWHITT.

WELBECK STREET, *Nov.* 23, 1798.

P.S.—I hear it is quite out of the Question, any idea of Elgin's* ever returning to Berlin. He is a confirmed consumptive.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[Private.] CLEVELAND ROW, *Nov.* 25, 1798.

DEAR SIR,—I answer in this private manner what relates to the idea you mention of a possible excursion to Vienna. The rule upon that subject, of a foreign Minister's not quitting his post but with express directions so to do, is one which we find it very necessary to observe strictly, & I should be sorry to see it broken thro' in the instance you mention, except on the most urgent & pressing occasion. I am perfectly confident that both the object and the effect of such a journey, undertaken by you, would be such as might be beneficial to the king's service, but you will easily see what a variety of speculations it would occasion, some of which might in their impression be productive of inconvenience. Your account of the Archduke's conversation was very interesting, and it is I know unnecessary for me to recommend it to you to cultivate as much as possible an intercourse with Him while he may remain in your neighbourhood.—I am, &c., (Signed) GRENVILLE.

* Lord Elgin was appointed Ambassador at Constantinople.—A. P.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[No. 4.] DOWNING STREET, 27 *November*, 1798.

SIR,—Your Dispatches to No 8 inclusive, have been received and laid before the King.

His Majesty continues to approve of the conduct and language which you have held towards the Bavarian Government, as well on the subject of the intimation concerning a loan or Subsidy from this Country, as with respect to the exertions which you have so properly recommended as alone consistent either with the safety or the honor of the Court of Munich.

You will continue to pursue on both these points the same line of argument which you have hitherto adopted, and at the same time that you express in strong terms the interest which His Majesty takes in what concerns the Elector of Bavaria, and His sincere desire to see such measures taken by His Electoral Highness's Government as the crisis demands, you will discourage any idea of pecuniary assistance from this Country, upon which subject the circumstances of the moment make it utterly impossible to contract any engagement, or even to hold out the smallest expectation.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) GRENVILLE.

From Mr. WILLIAM GARTHSHERE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

Nov. 30.

MY DEAREST ARTHUR,—The more I have enquired about the probable loan upon the Gallery at Dusseldorf* the more I am convinced that it cannot be effected in this Country but a sale most certainly might—not I believe however to the amount which they seem to expect—Bryan is convinced (he says) that they would not sell for more than the Collection of Italian Pictures from the Orleans Gallery† for which £40,000 was given. This does not reach the magnificent ideas with which they have inspired you. If they are serious however in this wish to sell any or all, B. will have no objection to

* See despatch of Nov. 8.

† Michael Bryan (1757–1821) had negotiated the purchase of these pictures, being employed by the Duke of Bridgewater; and had bought other artistic treasures in Paris by the King's permission.

go over. He is the *Arbiter of Taste* for this country—Ergo—the best man to employ. Of course whatever wishes you may have upon the subject you will let me know. Stratton who is just come from Vienna does not I think speak with any vast confidence of the expected exertions of that Court; they will however be (I think) forced into the War & probably with the only *but* of securing a retreat from it. Here we are in hourly expectation of hearing of the commencement of hostilities.—Ever yrs. (Signed) W. G.

From Mr. WM. GARTHSHERE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

Dec. 4th, 1798, Manr Square.

Pitt opened his Budget last night in a splendid Speech as usual. We are to contribute a tenth of our income which will amount, and I think him under the mark, to ten millions. You will see the details in the Papers. Tierney means to oppose and made a most mischievous Speech about the Church Lands—quite in his best style—nothing more passed. Elgin goes to Constantinople, Tom Grenville to Berlin, for the present at least. Yr Father wished to write to ask for it for you, but I quieted him. Do not take notice of this. I should not be at all surprized if you were to succeed Grenville who is going upon a *special mission*. Adieu my dear Arthur, the Bell is ringing—Have you got the King's Uniform yet; remember my Dog,—Ever Yrs, W. G.

Lady Cahir *off* with Sr J. Shelley—Lady Assia (as is said) do. in Ireland.

From Sir MORTON EDEN* *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, *Dec. 4th*, 1798.

DEAR SIR,—I hasten to acquaint you, that by letters received here last night from Constantinople, dated the 17th past, it appears that the very important intelligence had arrived at the Porte of the death of Genl. Buonaparte & of the destruction of his army.

The accounts transmitted to this government state

* Minister in Vienna.

that the General was killed in the Council Hall of Grand Cairo, while in the act of imposing new contributions, and that immediate advantage was taken of the confusion produced by this incident to commence a general massacre of the French.

My accounts state that he fell in battle, but neither M. de Thugut's correspondent nor mine * seem to have any doubt as to the authenticity of the facts.

I will write again when I hear further from Constantinople. Adieu my dear Sir,—Ever most faithfully yrs.

(Signed) M. EDEN.

From Sir MORTON EDEN *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, *Dec. 5th*, 1798.

My DEAR SIR,—The assurances from Constantinople of the death of Buonaparte & of the defeat of his army were so positive that no doubt was entertained here of their authenticity. It was therefore no small disappointment to me to learn by letters from thence of the 19th received last night that the news is at least premature & that there has only been an insurrection at Cairo in which indeed many french were slain. The General however was not of the number, he is encamped at Boulak & is certainly in a most critical situation.—Ever most faithfully yrs. (Signed) M. EDEN.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Sir MORTON EDEN.

MUNICH, *Decr.* 11, 1798.

The Archduke Charles is at present with us, endeavouring to inspire these people with something like vigour, but it is a Sisyphean Task that he has undertaken. I declare to God I never met with such a set in my Life—they have not a single Regiment either Infantry or Cavalry compleat, nor can I find that they are taking any measures to render them so. The few troops they have, they wanted to send into the Upper Palatinate, but this plan the Archduke at once very properly rejected. Nobody has any weight here but Monsieur

* The Baron de Ferretto, Neapolitan Minister at Vienna.

Alquier,* so I take it for granted they have made their arrangements with him. Indeed when I look around me, I do not find that their neighbours are doing much better. The conduct of these Great German Powers it is beyond my capacity to calculate the wisdom of.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 13.] MUNICH, 13 *December*, 1798.

MY LORD,—Since my last letter on the ninth instant, I have been honored with Your Lordship's circular Dispatch of the 20th November, & in obedience to the Instructions therein conveyed, I lost no time in transmitting to Count Vieregg the note relating to a late decree of the French Directory,† since which I have received Your Lordship's Dispatch No. 4 of the 27th ultimo.

Under the present circumstances my particular attention has been principally turned towards the probable conduct of this Court in the event of a recommencement of hostilities,‡ and towards the preparations made to meet such an event, and in reporting my observations to Your Lordship upon this important subject, it has been a painful duty to me to represent matters in a point of view so unpromising and so little calculated to create trust or friendship on the part of His Majesty towards the Government of this Country, but in making these reports I have been guided by truth, and regulated by the most unbiassed opinion. The Archduke Charles arrived here on the evening of the 9th, and returned Yesterday to Friedberg. During this short stay His Imperial Highness both verbally and by Note delivered by Himself to the Elector, expressed, with the greatest force and precision, His expectation that this Country would come to a resolution of taking a decided part should hostilities take place. The Archduke complained, considering the repeated promises which he has received

* See despatch of Oct. 4.

† Ordering all public officers to inscribe in their audience chambers: "Guerre au gouvernement Anglais."

‡ In December Great Britain signed a treaty of alliance with the Sicilies, and a provisional treaty of alliance with Russia.

on this subject on his first arrival here, that so little or nothing had been done during his absence towards the fulfilment of the Engagements which had been entered into with Him. On this occasion a renewal of the same or even more extensive promises took place, and I feel it incumbent upon me to add that His Royal Highness told me that he was more satisfied with what had been done than He had hitherto felt Himself.

In fact arrangements have within this day or two been decided upon, by which the forces are to be augmented and the Army in general to be put upon as respectable a footing as the present impoverished state of the Treasury will permit, but I doubt that their numbers when completed will exceed fifteen thousand Men. I am convinced, My Lord, that the Finances of the Country are low indeed, but such a remark can only draw down censure upon the maladministration of them antecedent to the present epoch. Such as they are, and whatever addition may be made to them from the proposed levy upon the Ecclesiastics, or any other source, the strongest assurances have been given me that they will be employed in the most satisfactory manner for the welfare of the common cause. I mention these assurances because they were repeated to me in a conversation I had this day with Minister Baron de Hompesch,* in the course of which I endeavored, agreeably to the tenor of Your Lordship's Instructions, to convey His Majesty's Sentiments towards the Elector, and the sincere desire of His Majesty to see such measures taken by Him as the present crisis demands.

I would not let this opportunity pass without expressing my surprise that Mr. Alquier should be allowed by the Elector to remain here, after having taken upon him to clothe himself with a public character which this Government had made a boast not to acknowledge him in, to present a note (a copy of which I transmitted to Your Lordship by the last Post) replete with insolence and mischief and which, coupled with the late offensive conduct of the Directory against this as well as all other

* Brother of the Grand Master of the Knights in Malta. Malta was captured by the French in May 1798, the Grand Master having been bought over.

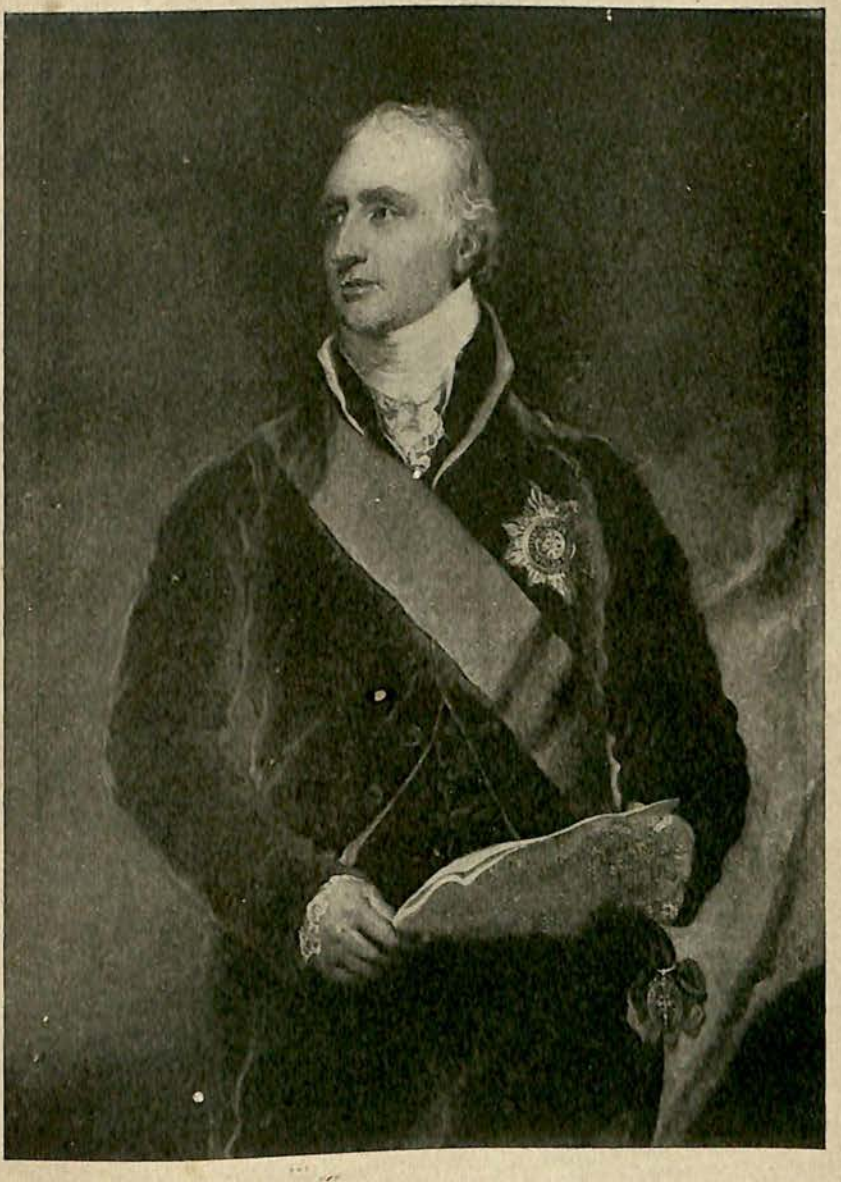
Governments, seemed to render his presence here dangerous. The Austrian Minister has made a similar remonstrance. I understand from Monsieur Hompesch that it was already intended to insinuate to Citizen Alquier that he is no longer required to remain here.—I have the honor to be, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From Sir CHARLES WHITWORTH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

ST. PETERSBURG, 28*th Dec.* 1798.

I fear that at this moment we shall not here be very popular with you—you have I daresay been as much bored where you are as I have been here with the affairs of the Order of Malta.* You know how we have proceeded against the late Grand Master Hompesch and that we have kicked him downstairs and got into his place. I confess for my own part I am decidedly an anti-Hompesch, and I think the Order, in gaining such a support as the Emperor of Russia, at a moment when every Government where it has possessions considered the game as up, and its property as lawful pillage, has made no bad bargain. The Court of Munich appears to think otherwise, and in consequence of certain remonstrances fomented by the brother of Hompesch, and a certain Bishop of Chersonese, who perhaps is your intimate friend, the whole Bavarian tongue is cut out, and the Bavarian Minister ordered to leave this Court, as is the Russian Chargé d'Affaires that of Munich—so much for the order of Malta, about which you see we are in earnest. That you may know, however, how much we interest ourselves in the business, it is necessary that I should tell you that we sit, I mean our Court, in concert with this on every thing relating to the interests of the Order, and of the Island, if ever it falls into our hands. It is then intended to re-establish the Order, with such changes as arise naturally from the change of circumstances. We shall probably make a part in its reorganisation, and that for the purpose of securing to ourselves a share of the advantages arising from its situation in a commercial point of view. It is possible that you may have had instructions from home upon this subject, if

* The Emperor Paul considered himself the protector of Malta.



CHARLES, VISCOUNT WHITWORTH

not, it is well you should know that with regard to the re-establishment of the Order, and to the mode of doing it, we act in concert with this Court. It is true that by my last letter the nomination of the Emperor to the charge of Grand Master was not known, but there can be no doubt that it will be readily acquiesced in, for I think the Court of Munich, if it had been wise, should have done the same.

I send this to Vienna by a Neapolitan Messenger, the first which your old friend the Duke has sent for these ten years, who carries with him the news of the want of ten thousand Russians for Italy.* The manly and vigorous measures of the K. of Naples† have been duly appreciated here, and the Emperor has not hesitated a moment in sending this body of troops to his assistance. They will have a march of about 1300 Versts across Moldavia, Walachia, & Croatia to Zara on the borders of the Adriatick, over which they will pass to Ancona, or wherever it may be necessary. It is supposed they can easily perform this march in about ten weeks. It is a Gen[l] Herman, whom you do not remember, who commands them, and a very good man he is. Twenty thousand Russians are already in your part of the world, and I have the best reason to hope that the Emperor will not stop here, so that I trust you will join with me in singing his praises, as indeed we have every reason to do. It is devoutly to be wished that the two great German Powers were as hearty as this, and I think we should soon settle the business—this is what we are endeavouring to effect—I mean the uniting the C[ts] of Vienna and Berlin, and perhaps with a better prospect than at any former period.

As for myself I am going on pretty near as you left me. I am as you may suppose after so many years become perfectly habituated to Petersburg, but not so much as to have lost my taste for England. I am, as usual, thinking of taking a trip there, as soon as circumstances will permit, but God knows when that will be. In the meantime I continue to go on tolerably well, with

* Russia bound herself in 1798 to become the protector of Naples and Piedmont.

† An army was assembled on the frontiers of the Roman States to confront the French under Championnet.

a good house (that of Schuvaloff upon the Moika), a good increase of salary, and always a little in love.

Your old friends are I think pretty nearly in *Statu quo*—the 1st, Michel has very wisely discarded Choiseul and taken a young Pole in his place, who seems much better adapted for the business. Michel consoles himself with his bottle—they continue always good friends, she allows him to drink, and he permits her to amuse herself in her way—the Dolgoroukis, Zagustzkys and the coy beau of —— &c., are all as you left them.

God bless you, my dear Paget, let me hear from you sometimes and be assured of the real regard with which I am, &c., (Signed) CHAS. WHITWORTH.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 15.] MUNICH, 30 *December*, 1798.

MY LORD,—I have uniformly endeavored to represent matters as fairly as possible; whenever I have perceived anything like a favorable change of system I have eagerly reported it, but I have never altered my own private opinion, an opinion which daily events teach me to be confirmed in, that it is not the intention of this Government to afford such assistance to the common cause as the dignity and interest of the Elector demand, and such as His means would empower him to come forward with; that it is not their intention, by the adoption of firm, vigorous, and spirited measures to offend the French Directory; that it is on the contrary their intention and study to gain the good will of that Government. That this opinion may be erroneous is my most fervent Prayer, but the topographical situation of this Country is in every point of view much too important to allow the measures of its Government to remain unnoticed and in silence. Not to employ all its resources in conjunction with the conterminous Powers, is in fact to favour the Enemy.

[*Cypher.*] As long as the present Ministry remain in office nothing but evil will ensue. There is a perfect understanding between them and the Successor, the Duke de Deux-Ponts. The Duke de Birkenfeld who is at present upon the best terms with the Duke de Deux-

Ponts was here last Week, in the course of which he had an interview of three hours with the French Agent here. The Elector is perfectly passive and irresolute, one day one Minister has his Ear, and the next week He is led by another. The system is rotten and dangerous. Count Zedwitz, the Commander in chief who is also at the head of the Military Department, and is a well-wisher, in as much as he is devoted to Austria, tells me that he is thwarted and counteracted in everything, particularly by the Count de Linanges.

I am so impressed by the necessity of a change of Men as well as of measures, that I could not help communicating my ideas upon the subject to the Archduke Charles, with whom I had the honor of an interview and of dining three days ago at Friedberg. I found Him very much exasperated, (I mention this, as a fortnight ago He seemed disposed to give credit to the assurances and promises which had been given Him, and to expect that the Treaty mentioned in my No. 9 would be punctually fulfilled). His Royal Highness told me that He had already submitted to the Emperor the necessity of such a change, but had as yet received no answer.

It cannot be an immaterial circumstance that such a Person as Citizen Alquier should be allowed to remain at so small a distance from the Austrian Head Quarters. The Archduke, feeling this, required when last here that he might be sent away, which was promised. A Note to that effect was drawn up by M. de Hompesch, but was overruled by Count Linanges.

I am much inclined to think that the Archduke Charles is considerably hurt at the silence and mystery which is observed towards Him by His Court. He has done me the honor to converse very confidentially with me, and I am sure that I am not wrong in the above surmises. He is most zealous, hearty, and devoted to the cause, and I feel myself bound to state that as my judgment leads me, I think Him one of the finest characters that either personally or by fame I ever became acquainted with. The Austrian Soldiery are unquestionably in the highest order, but I know that

the Archduke is not altogether satisfied with the Generals who command them. [*Cypher ends.*]—I have the honor, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From H.R.H. *the* PRINCE OF WALES *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

Jan^{y} 7, 1799.

Though I wrote you, my dearest Arthur, a Letter of sixteen or eighteen Pages about six Weeks ago, & though I have received no answer to it as yet, still I cannot help writing a few Lines to you from this place, amidst all its bustle & confusion. The Lady* of the Mansion on the Birthday was dressed more superbly, look'd more nobly, *dans le grand genre*, as it should be, & more beautifully than I have seen her for months & indeed almost I may say years, & she did the honours of that immense fête in a manner that no one but herself knows how to do. I really figured to myself what with the Ancient appearance of the Castle, the prodigious concourse of the Natives without, & the numbers of the bettermost sort within doors, together with the Illuminations, the Music, the noise & the bustle, that I was transported in a dream to some of those scenes which we have read the description of having existed in the days of Chivalry. But to return to the Lady of the House, though she exerted herself to the utmost, still it was evident that there was a gloom that hung about her, which she could not conquer & which deadened every pleasing event that took place, & which she would have supremely enjoyed under other circumstances. I am almost the only person, she tells me, that she can venture to talk to. Of course I need not add, my dear friend, that we have had much, much conversation. On my Soul I think I never did see any Creature in all my Life so perfectly attached as she is, indeed my dear Arthur you never will be able to shake it off; I almost, from the manner in which she talks of you, the animation, the passion with which she dwells upon your name, & upon every circumstance that regards you, should

* Duchess of Rutland, the widow of Charles, fourth Duke, who died in 1787; daughter of Charles, fourth Duke of Beaufort. During his residence in England Mr. Paget had been paying his addresses to the Duchess, but the courtship was eventually broken off.

think you to blame were you to attempt ever to break through it, as I am confident it would cost her, her life, & I am persuaded you never could nor would forgive yourself. She is beginning to get one of her nasty Coughs again, pray write & preach up Sir Walter and everything that is proper, but I am afraid there is but one remedy that could be of any essential avail and that would be yourself. Why that should not be the case, my beloved Arthur, I can not really see; why bury yourself alive so loved, esteemed, & liked as you are by all that know you; why not entirely decline the Line you are in, & by adhering to the parliamentary Cause, look, through the interest of your friends, besides your own abilities, forwards to an honourable situation at one of the Boards, which perhaps though not quite equal in point of emolument to what you may in a year or two meet with as a foreign Minister, still you will enjoy your friends, they will enjoy you, which must be quite out of the question as long as you are to be one of the *sanctioned Spies, & hidden lamps of Lord Grenville.*

Weigh this well over, & let me know your sentiments, the less you hesitate now, I am confident, the better it will be for you, & the appointment of Mr. Grenville to Berlin I should hope might furnish you with a sufficient excuse. Indeed, indeed, dear Arthur, you know not also how I miss you each hour of the four & twenty, & all that your friends can say that inspires them with any pleasing feelings in their convivial moments, is, either don't you remember dear Arthur's saying so, or doing so, or how he would like to be with us, or what would Arthur say or think, or how would he act upon such & such a circumstance. I expect there is no explaining or telling you how we all feel about you. Therefore you ought a little to weigh, at the same time that you consider for yourself, what so deeply interests & concerns the happiness of your friends. After this long prosing Sermon which I hope you will forgive me for, my dear Arthur, though you may rate it a bore, I must write you in order to extort a smile before I conclude some little account of *Chig**—he arrived on the Saturday in the last

* "Chig"—the familiar name of Mr. Chester, who was in the intimate "set" of the Prince of Wales.—A. P.

Week, from Ireland, on Sunday he dined with me & a party to commemorate how happy we used to be with you last year, & hope to be for many many years to come, the party were, viz., Bathurst, Brummell,* Chig, & Bob Mongomery. After the first Glass after dinner every Round was a Bumper to you in the very best Claret I had; Chig thought it too weak. Of course stronger, the old Queen's House Claret, was produced for him which he swore was the b-pup-pup-pup-pest Cha-a-a-teau Margeau he had ever ta-a-asted, & tumbled about ten o'clock smack on his face, and was obliged to be carried off between two Servants. The rest were bad enough, God knows, except myself, though my every Glass was a Bumper to your health, I can safely swear I never flinched one, dear Arthur, & you well know I am not even upon indifferent occasions a *Shirker*. Since that day, the old Girl has never ceased being tipsy twice a day, first at dinner & on—but after supper—for she always makes a regular supper first—& a couple of Bottles of iced Champagne, after a couple of quarts of Small Beer which She calls, you know, a Swig of Beer, has completed about six in the morning the old Gentlewoman since she has been with us here. Upon my Word, I am quite ashamed of the length of this Scrawl. I will therefore only say that there is no one existing, my dear Arthur, who loves you more truly or sincerely than your ever affectionate GEORGE.

BELVOIR CASTLE, *Jan*^{y} *17th*, 1799.

Many happy years to you, My dear Arthur.

* Mr. George Brummell, the celebrated "Beau Brummell," for some years an intimate friend of the Prince of Wales. Most people will remember the old story of his having so far forgotten himself one day when he was paying a visit to His Royal Highness as to say to the Prince, "George, please ring the bell." His Royal Highness did so, and on the servant appearing he said to him, "Order Mr. Brummell's carriage," and from thenceforth Mr. Brummell was never again admitted to Carlton House. He subsequently obtained the appointment of Consul at Calais, where he died in great pecuniary distress.—A. P.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 1.] MUNICH, 10 *January*, 1799.

[*Cypher.*] MY LORD,—I saw the Archduke last week. The persuasion He was then in that the King of Naples * would not be abandoned, and that the Army under His Command would soon receive Orders to act tends, I fear, to prove that His Royal Highness is kept in ignorance as to the intentions of His Court, and I fear also that He is not well-informed of the operations of the Army intended to oppose him. [*Cypher ends.*]

Private Letters from Vienna state that in consequence of the last Note of the French Minister at Rastadt respecting the progress of the Russian Army in the Empire, it is supposed that that Army will receive orders to direct its march towards Italy.

Our accounts here from that Country vary, those received last night state that the French have entered Rome.—I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Sir CHARLES WHITWORTH.

MUNICH, 15 *Jan*^{y}, 1799.

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,—I take it for granted that you have not received three letters I have written to you since my arrival at this place. At all events, I trust that you are persuaded of the Friendship, attachment, and gratitude I feel towards you. When I was employed at Berlin you used to acknowledge my letters; it is not my fault if I cannot make my correspondence from hence interesting. You must take the will for the deed, & I shall now make one more effort to obtain a sight of your handwriting by the opportunity of M^{r} de Sultzer's return to Petersburg.

You of course hear everything from Italy from Vienna, tho' that Court takes all the pains possible to conceal the truth when it is unpléasant, & even fabricates accounts little consistent with facts that pass in that unfortunate & devoted Country. I will therefore barely mention

* The Court had fled to Sicily, and the Parthenopeian Republic was proclaimed.

that I received a letter the 23 Ult° from Rome yesterday, stating that Championnet was in full march for Naples.

I also received an account from another quarter stating that the French are actually making preparations to cross the Rhine, and that an order had been sent to the Commandant of Ehrenbreitstein to surrender that Fortress to the Enemy. The reason alleged for this most extraordinary measure is curious, namely, that it will be an additional grievance against France.

The most enormous sums of money have been sent by the Directory to Berlin, & placed at the disposition of a person there who has the correspondence with the "Propagandistes Etrangers," within these three or four months no less a sum than 27 Millions. I don't know whether you think the same, but I have the worst possible *opinion of the Cabinet of Vienna*, & apprehend that y^e^ basest & vilest motives have directed it's Conduct. I am led to think that there are Secret Articles in the Treaty of Campo Formio that are Monstrous. There are I believe two sets of Secret Articles, of course one more secret than the other; these I am in pursuit of, & am not quite without hopes of procuring.

It is truly melancholy that operations did not commence in this part of the world at the time the Austrians entered the Grisons.* The passing over that encroachment in silence proves the weakness of the French Government at that Epoch, & we should have saved two Kings by it.† It is impossible for anything to be more favourable & conformable to our wishes than the spirit & disposition of the Interior of France, which I am sorry to say is much broken by the late sacrifice of the French in Italy. It cannot be otherwise. Had matters taken the turn we reasonably expected, there is, I believe, little doubt that a Monarchy would have settled over that Country in the course of the present Spring. The People at Vienna pretend to disbelieve the reports which are made from the Interior of France, but this is merely a pretext, as they are certainly *véridique*. Nothing can be

* In Oct. 1798 the Austrians entered the Grisons on the invitation of the Helvetians, in consequence of negotiations at Coire.

† The King of Sardinia fled from Turin on Dec. 8, and the King of Naples fled from Naples Dec. 21.

finer than the present state of the Austrian Soldiery—not the Generals & officers, the first for the most part are decrepit & old, the latter Jacobinical & without discipline. But here I must make an exception in favour of the Archduke Charles, who is, without an exception to the contrary, one of the finest Characters both Public & Private I ever met with. I have been fortunate to see a good deal of Him since He has been in this Neighbourhood, & the oftener I am with Him the more I admire Him. I believe that he is heartily vexed & disgusted at the present proceedings of a certain Court.

I enclose you a Book written by Carnot which you will find very interesting. God bless you, my dear Whitworth, pray remember me to all friends & believe me ever most Sincerely & affect^y^ yours,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 4.] MUNICH, 7 *February*, 1799.

MY LORD,—I think it my duty to acquaint Your Lordship, that the Emperor's Ministers at the Diet of Ratisbon have received Instructions to act with me in a confidential manner on the subject of the march of the Russian Troops. I therefore humbly submit to Your Lordship the expediency of my legitimating myself with the Diet.*

Notwithstanding the repeated visits of the Archduke Charles at Munich, I do not find that things go on at all better. I look upon it that 5000 Infantry and 1000 Cavalry will be the utmost extent of the succour this Country can afford at present. Of the 15 millions of Florins to be raised from the Ecclesiastics, 61,000 is the Sum already brought in. The number of the Austrian Forces in Bavaria are said to amount to 84,000.

[*Cypher.*] The Elector has lately been bled twice within ten days. His Physician thinks that he cannot live beyond another year. The Court of Vienna is very anxious, and is kept regularly informed upon this subject. The idea of a further dismemberment of Bavaria, including the Bishopric of Saltzbourg and the salt Mines, said to be

* By presenting his credentials, which he had not yet done.

agreed upon in the secret articles of the Treaty of Campo Formio, gains credit.—I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From Sir MORTON EDEN *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, *Tuesday Morn^g, Feb^ry 12th*, 1799.

MY DEAR SIR,—The Austrian Minister has expressed himself in suitable terms on the great readiness with which you repaired to Ratisbon, & on your zealous endeavours in support of the great question now in agitation there. We understand that the Ministers of Wurtzbourg & Baden have already received instructions to vote in conformity to the demand of France. M. de Orpteda says, alluding to your representation, that it may be natural for England to wish to involve the Empire in a new war, but that its interests require that it should by every possible means endeavour to shun it. The instructions of the Imperial Ministers direct them to declare that in the present conjuncture the Empire should not decline the assistance of the Emperor of Russia, particularly as the intervention of that Sovereign had been required by four of the Circles of the Empire. I am anxious to learn the language of the Prussian Ministers, & no less so to know the result of the instances of the Court of Petersburg at Berlin to prevail upon His Prussian Majesty to enter into the coalition against France. The last letters from thence intimate that the Negociation was suspended till Mr. Grenville's arrival. I am not sanguine in my expectations.—Believe me, &c., M. E.

[Mr Paget's No 5 of February 14, 1799, to Lord Grenville announced that the Elector had been seized with apoplexy. No 6 of the 16th announces His death and then proceeds as follows:]

Immediately upon this fatal event the Duke de Birkenfeld produced His full powers from the present Elector, authorizing him to act at the head of the Government until His arrival, upon which all the Ministers, Generals, and Officers of the Court took the Oath of Allegiance and were followed in this Ceremony by the Garrison. At the same time the present Elector

was publickly proclaimed. The whole took place with the utmost tranquillity. He is expected here in the course of to-morrow.

The public mind is naturally filled with conjecture as to what may be the changes resulting from this death. But it is the general opinion of those Persons whom I have ever the most esteemed and respected for their opinion, that it is, under all existing circumstances, an unfortunate event for this Country.

Your Lordship is undoubtedly well acquainted with the character of the Duke of Deux-Ponts, the present Elector. It is such I fear as offers little prospect of happiness to His subjects, the more so as He is surrounded by Persons supposed to be devoted to the present French Government and particularly a certain Monsieur de Mongellas.*

The change of Sovereign would beyond a doubt have created a change of system much to the prejudice of the Court of Vienna under any other circumstances than the present, for I risk little in saying that the majority of the leading People themselves are disgusted with the influence of that Court in this Cabinet, and the burden of maintaining an Austrian Army. The same people, (except those who wish well to the French cause and whose Numbers are not so insignificant as to remain unnoticed) feeling the impossibility that this Country can preserve an independence, naturally lean towards the Prussian Connection. But 100,000 Austrians which are now in Bavaria and the Palatinate must, I should conjecture, abate the ardour of the most sanguine of the Party I have alluded to. The Archduke is already, as it is supposed, empowered to act as circumstances may require. His first object will be to engage the Elector to renew the treaty concluded between the two Courts in the month of November last, which I have so often had occasion to mention.

It was apprehended that part of this Electorate would be sacrificed to the fulfilment of certain secret Articles in the Treaty of Campo Formio,† and that the epoch for

* One of the Illuminati. Minister in Bavaria from 1802 to 1810.

† October 17, 1797. In secret articles Austria promised to recognise the extension of the French frontier to the Rhine.

such a dismemberment would be the late Elector's Death. I have used every means in my power to come to the knowledge of them, and have in fact received through a particular channel, in a distant Quarter, some of what are reputed to be the Articles in question, in which Bavaria is not mentioned. Such as they are I take the liberty of enclosing them.

It is a matter, My Lord, of very serious consideration the progress which, I lament to state, is making towards a Revolution in the States of the Duke of Wirtemburg. I cannot doubt that the French Agent here has the same object in view. I know however that He has been most closely watched by this Government, but hitherto no direct charge can be brought against him. I have notwithstanding heard that Mr. Maingaud,* so active in the unfortunate revolution in Switzerland, is employed between Mr. Bacher the French Agent at Ratisbon, Mr. Trouvé at Stutgard, and Mr. Alquier at this Court.

I feel it my duty to lose no time in sending off a Servant with this Dispatch. Your Lordship may rely upon my paying every attention to the situation of this Country at this critical moment.—I have the honor to be, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 8.] MUNICH, 24 *February*, 1799.

[*Cypher.*] MY LORD,—The Elector complains of the hardship of having an Austrian Army in His Country. He talks of nothing but the necessity of Peace. He is very fond of the Military and will probably augment His Army, but will not I daresay send a single man to the aid of the Common Cause unless compelled by circumstances to do so.

The French Agent received a Courier two nights ago. I am assured that he was instructed to leave Munich, but that an Estafette which arrived yesterday Morning brought him a counter order. I presume that the latter was dispatched as soon as the news of the late Elector's illness reached His Government. He had an audience

* French Envoy in Switzerland, 1797, who conducted the democratic movement, and the insurrection in the Pays de Vaud, Jan. 1798.

yesterday afternoon of the Elector and was I am told very graciously received. Every circumstance tends to prove the dislike to the connection subsisting between the Court of Vienna and this Country, and a wish to unite themselves with Prussia. Those who are known to have favoured the Austrian System are slighted and neglected. The Persons on the contrary who have leaned towards Prussia and even France are brought forward and noticed. [*Cypher ends.*]—I have the honor to be, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 9.] MUNICH, 28 *February*, 1799.

MY LORD,—I yesterday paid a private visit to the Elector, and I am sorry to say that I came away with some unpleasant Impressions. The Interview was not very long, but the conversation extremely unreserved. His Electoral Highness, having expressed Himself with the utmost respect and politeness towards His Majesty and the English Nation, proceeded to speak upon the subject of the War, and I am concerned to say in terms that give no hope whatever that any assistance will be afforded from hence. Indeed His Electoral Highness declared explicitly that the only part He should take in it would be to keep Himself, His Troops, and His Subjects ready to oppose the first that attacked Him, though He would never suffer a shot to be fired from His Army against the Austrians. Having expressed to His Electoral Highness my concern to find that our principles and method of viewing the Subject differed as widely as possible, I took it upon me to intimate that what had fallen from His Electoral Highness would be by no means agreeable to His Majesty; that my Instructions and object had hitherto been to engage the late Elector to take such a part as His dignity and interest required, that I was therefore equally astonished and concerned to discover the unfriendly disposition of His Highness to the common and only true Cause, particularly at a moment when every thing was to be expected from the coalesced efforts of all Sovereigns. The Elector

to this replied, that he should at all events wait to see what His Friends did.

[*Cypher.*] After paying a compliment to His Majesty, the first thing the Elector said to me was, "Sir, I understand that you have said that I have received 36,000 Louis from the French." My answer was, "I can assure your Electoral Highness that I have not spoken of it. I certainly have received information to that effect, with this difference that the sum was 50,000."

I undoubtedly have heard that about £30,000 sent by the Directory to the Elector when Duke de Deux-Ponts, had been intercepted.

The Elector conversed with much frankness, and desired I would do the same. I did not therefore omit this opportunity of stating my sentiments most unreservedly upon every subject that came before us. I even expressed my bad opinion of the Persons most in His confidence. The Elector of course disagreed, but said that if they were such as I stated, *it would not signify as He meant to take the reins of Government entirely into his own hands, and* (to make use of His own expression) *that He was very well satisfied with Himself.* Upon my putting the question, He assured me that He had no intention of receiving Mr. Alquier as Minister. I expressed my surprise that His Electoral Highness should have seen him at all, and the bad effect such an interview would not fail to produce upon the minds of other Sovereigns. To this the Elector replied that He felt Himself responsible to no one for the company He thought proper to see in his own House.

I dined the Day before Yesterday at Friedberg with the Archduke Charles. He told me that, during the short Interview He had with the Elector the latter had talked upon twenty different Subjects, and that He found it impossible to fix his attention to one in particular. It seems however that the Elector made use of exactly the same expression to the Archduke as is underlined in this Dispatch. It is very remarkable that neither the Archduke Charles, or the Imperial Minister here, have received any Instructions since the Late Elector's death. The former I know continues to be much hurt at the silence and want of confidence which is

in general observed towards him. [*Cypher ends.*]—I have the honor, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 12.] MUNICH, 10 *March*, 1799.

[*Extract.*]—I have now to inform your Lordship that two Austrian Officers arrived here this morning, charged with orders from the Archduke Charles to conduct Mr. Alquier and his Suite out of the Country.* A similar step has been taken towards Mr. Bacher the French Agent at Ratisbon.

The entry of the French at Mannheim was, as might be suspected, immediately followed by a general requisition.

The Archduke dined here with the Elector last Thursday, and returned to Friedberg in the evening.

I have good reason for supposing that His Royal Highness was not satisfied with the result of this visit. The Elector is assembling a few Troops for the purpose, as it is still said, of opposing the first who attack him. The Austrian Minister has received no instructions whatever since the late Elector's death.

When I saw the Archduke Charles last Thursday He was in very good spirits. He said that He felt Himself a full match for the French if Bernadotte was not reinforced, which He was fearful of.

The Archduke was I know getting very much out of humour. It is even said that he had sent his resignation, but this new order of things will undoubtedly do away with all animosity. [*Cypher ends.*]

From Mr. CANNING† *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[Private.] DOWNING STREET, *Friday, March* 15, 1799.

DEAR PAGET,—Your Servant arrived here last week in the midst of fifteen Mails, which had been accumulating on the other side of the water ever since the 20th of January. He will be redispatched to you on Tuesday

* The French opened war again on Austria, March 1. The Archduke defeated Jourdan at Ostrach on March 4, and at Stockach on March 25.

† Mr. Canning was at this time Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

next with your new Credential. As I know not what else there can be to be sent to you except a general Dispatch approving in the strongest terms of all that you have done and are doing, he might very easily have been made to set off to-night or even last Tuesday, but that I understand that he had many Commissions to execute for you here, and conceived therefore that it might be some accommodation to you to let him stay a few days longer.

. . . . . .

We are all in anxious expectation of news of the opening of the Campaign, having heard in a way that leaves us no doubt of its truth (I trust it will turn out as true as we believe it) that the French have declared War against the K. of Hungary & Bohemia.* For my part I have made up my mind to hear that the Austrians are terribly beaten. But I do not much care. Next to their *setting* a good example, the best thing is that they should be *made* an example for the rest of Europe. Those Powers who will not fight, ought to fall. The only means by which the French could now shake the firmness and decision of this Country, would be by shewing in any one instance the possibility of a *safe compromise* with them. In that case I would not answer for our holding out as We ought to do. But as long as they go on overwhelming every body who is stupid enough to trust to them, We are as safe as We can be till they are finally overwhelmed themselves. Upon these principles, I scarcely care whether the first account you send be of a victory or a defeat. Only do not let it be a new treaty of Leoben.†

Whatever you send I probably shall not have the pleasure of being the first to read it, as my official life will end very soon after the dispatching of your Servant on Tuesday. Lest I should not have time to write to you by him (as it will be a day of many messengers), let me now introduce my successor to you, and assure you

* The Emperor signed the Treaty of Campo Formio as King of Bohemia and Hungary. When Louis XVI. was compelled in 1792 to declare war against Austria it was as King of Bohemia and Hungary that Francis was described, as he had not then been elected Emperor, although, of course, he was known to be the sole possible candidate.

† It was at Leoben that the Campo Formio negotiations were first discussed.

that Frere will be as happy as I could be to receive any commands of yours upon any point where he can be of the least use to you.—Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) GEO. CANNING.

We have got very well through the most important part of the Session; & (what I know you will be glad to hear) Pitt is, I think, much better in health than when you left England.

We expected an Invasion of Ireland, till we heard of the Declaration of War, and may have one still.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[No. 1.] DOWNING STREET, 22 *March*, 1799.

SIR,—Your Dispatches to No. 10 inclusive have been received, and laid before the King.

I have great pleasure in acquainting you that His Majesty graciously approves of the manner in which you have conducted Yourself in everything that has passed at Munich since the accession of the new Elector, and also of your having under the particular circumstances of the moment proceeded to present Your Credentials at Ratisbon* without waiting for Express Instructions for that purpose.

You will divide Your attention and vary Your Residence between the two Places of Your Mission as circumstances may appear to You to require. It is impossible for me under the uncertainty which prevails here as to the present state of affairs in Germany, and as to the events which may arise out of the renewal of the War, to give you any specific Instructions for Your conduct in the many delicate Situations in which you may be placed; but I rely with confidence on the zeal and activity which you have already manifested, that you will let pass no opportunity of rousing and animating the Government to which You are accredited to those exertions by which alone any Government can be saved from the Perils that threaten all alike, and that You will keep me constantly informed of whatever may come under Your observation in any way connected with the good of His Majesty's Service.

* See despatch of February 7.

Although I take the opportunity of the return of Your Servant to forward to you His Majesty's Credential Letter to the new Elector, You will understand that You are not to present it until you hear from me again, as no formal notification has yet been made here of the death of the late, and the Succession of the present Elector.—I am, &c., (Signed) GRENVILLE.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 13.] MUNICH, 31 *March*, 1799.

MY LORD,—Nothing of the smallest importance has happened here since I had last the honor of writing to Your Lordship. Indeed it is inconceivable, considering the very critical situation of this Country, to view the apparent inactivity which reigns throughout. I hope that I may be misinformed but I do not find that a single preparation is making, or a single step taken, which the imperious circumstances of the present period so loudly call for.

[*Cypher.*] It is impossible to suppose otherwise than that this temporizing and fatal line of conduct is in consequence of an understanding between this Government and the Directory. Everything here is Prussian, and no pains are spared to render the Austrians odious.

I have employed every means in my power to come at information upon so interesting a Subject, and all the intelligence I can gain tends to convince me that everything is ripe for attempting an insurrection, and perhaps a revolution, in case the Austrian Army should be obliged to retreat. This place swarms with Jacobins and Persons whom I am convinced are paid by the Directory. The Government seem perfectly blind to all this, and Agents left and directed by Mr. Alquier perform their work unmolested.

I own that I have done and continue to do as much mischief to their cause as lays in my power—my enemies are therefore without number. The Elector has I know expressed the strongest dislike to me.—I have the honor to be, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 15.] MUNICH, *16th April*, 1799.

MY LORD,—I suspect that the Elector is much embarrassed at the little encouragement he meets with from the Court of Berlin in his opposition to that of Vienna. I allude to a declaration which has been made by the former, in which the Elector of Bavaria, as one of the Southern Powers of Germany, is recommended to unite himself with Austria. But this and another Declaration made both at Vienna and at Radstadt, in which the idea of adding any part of the Elector's Dominions to Austria is disclaimed, have not hitherto been sufficient to remove that Jealousy and uneasiness which has at times been felt here, and which the present Elector possesses in an eminent degree. The principal grievance at present against Austria is the distress to which this Country is said to be reduced by the presence of Her Army during so long a period. Jt is, I believe, true that the Court of Vienna has not been quite so regular in its Payments for different branches of Supplies which may have been furnished as might be wished, but, passing by the many arguments which would remain unanswerable against this alleged grievance, I cannot help submitting a single consideration, the truth of which I have by degrees arrived at the conviction of. It is that the very presence of the Austrians has prevented Insurrection and Disturbance, the seeds of which have long since been sown in this Country, and here I will shortly observe to Your Lordship, that I think the reigning Evil has made considerable progress here. All classes of People are more or less distempered, nor is the slightest effort made on the part of the Government to check its ravages—on the contrary I see Persons at the head of it who formerly professed, nay boasted, to belong to the Sect of Illuminés—I see persons invited to return to Munich who were some years back ignominiously banished as conspirers against all Government and Social order—further I know positively (for I have employed Persons to frequent their meetings) that Assemblies are held in this City wherein the most seditious language is spoken, and where French Agents breathe forth uncontrolled their fatal doctrines.

The Elector himself is weak, incapable of forming or executing any vigorous project, and, as I have already mentioned to Your Lordship, is completely led by M. de Mongellas. Indeed at present he literally sees no other of His Ministers upon business.

As to the intentions of this Court with respect to the War,* I am persuaded that they are to take no part whatever in it, and I am of this opinion from the language I have heard held by Persons most in the Elector's Confidence, and particularly M. de Mongellas, with whom I have conversed upon this particular Subject, and to whom I have held a language conformable to your Lord^{sp}'s Instructions.

I am told in reply that the Elector contributes at this moment more than the Constitution of the Empire can require of Him towards the subsistence of the Emperor's Troops, that the state of the Finances is low beyond all idea of calculation, and that so far from being able to raise fresh Troops, the Government is nearly unable to pay those on the present Establishment. I believe this Statement in some respects to be true.—I have the honor, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[No. 3.] DOWNING STREET, *April* 16, 1799.

SIR,—The King is pleased to direct that you should, until you hear further from me, avail Yourself of His Majesty's Permission to be absent from Munich by repairing either to Ratisbon or to such other Place as may be most convenient for your receiving His Majesty's further Commands. As Your absence from Munich may perhaps be prolonged for some considerable time, I shall take the King's pleasure as early as possible respecting the arrangements to be made for the conduct of His Majesty's Affairs there.

I cannot close this letter without expressing to you the great Satisfaction which I have felt from everything which I have seen of Your conduct since Your appointment to that Mission, and particularly from the distinguished

* The Congress of Rastadt was closed in April.

Zeal and Abilities with which You have discharged the Duties of it, and of which His Majesty has been graciously pleased to express Himself in terms of high Approbation. —I am, &c., (Signed) GRENVILLE.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[Private.] CLEVELAND ROW, *April* 16, 1799.

DEAR SIR,—I have been very much surprised by receiving yesterday from Count Haslaug* an application desiring that I would represent to the King, that on account of some expressions made use of by you in conversation with His Electoral Highness, and from a persuasion that you were not attached to His person & Government, it would be no longer agreeable to Him that you should reside at His Court on the part of His Majesty. On receiving this application it naturally occurred to me to enquire whether M. de Haslaug was acquainted with the particular expressions made use of by you, or with any instances of such conduct on your part as might have given rise to the unfavourable impressions which the Elector appeared to have received. On neither of these points was M. de Haslaug enabled to afford me the smallest information. I could therefore only reply to him that knowing as I did both your sentiments & principles, & having the fullest confidence in your discretion & judgment, I could not but believe that both your language & conduct must have been greatly misrepresented to the Elector, who I was persuaded would never impute it as blame to any public Minister that he was warmly attached to the interest of his own Court, and much less to an English Minister that in the present moment he expressed himself with zeal on all occasions in support of that glorious cause in which His Majesty's exertions have been so honourable to Himself, & so useful to every Power in Europe. But I added that whatever the occasion of the present application might be, His Majesty would undoubtedly never think of maintaining at the Court of a Prince in Amity with Him a Minister whose person was, from whatever cause, disagreeable to the Sovereign to whom he was accredited.

* Bavarian Minister in London.

Such a situation would indeed be as little suitable for you to fill, as it would be inconsistent with the King's intentions in having accredited you there.

In communicating this circumstance to you I cannot avoid repeating in this private form the assurances of my public dispatch, of the very great satisfaction which I have derived from every part of your conduct at Munich which has yet come to my knowledge, & my confidence that I shall not have any reason to alter that impression from anything that I have yet to learn.—Believe me, Dear Sir, &c., GRENVILLE.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[Private.] CLEVELAND ROW, *April* 19, 1799.

DEAR SIR,—I have the satisfaction to announce to you that H.M. has been graciously pleased to approve of the recommendation which I humbly submitted to him on Wednesday, and to destine you to the Mission at Berlin, to which place H.M. desires that you should proceed as soon as Mr. Grenville shall have terminated the temporary commission with which he is now charged at that Court. As the period of this is still in some degree uncertain the King has directed that you should in the meantime remain at Ratisbon, & exercise the functions of your present Mission to the Diet, which will continue, tho' that to Munich will be terminated as soon as Mr. Drake arrives, whom H.M^{y}. has named to succeed you as His Minister to the Elector of Bavaria. As you will be absent from Munich when Mr. Drake arrives (which will be in about a fortnight after you receive this letter) you will be so good as to leave some careful person in the charge of all papers, cyphers, &c., which are to be delivered to him.

I congratulate you very sincerely on this very distinguished mark of the King's confidence, & look forward with much satisfaction to your correspondence from that very interesting scene.—I am, &c.,

GRENVILLE.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 17.] MUNICH, 5 *May*, 1799.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Dispatch No. 3 of the 16th April.

In obedience to the Instructions therein contained I shall set off for Ratisbon in the course of two or three days.

I am particularly obliged to Your Lordship for the very flattering manner in which You have been pleased to convey to me His Majesty's approbation of my conduct. To have gained it will ever be the pride of my Life, as it will be my study in every situation to merit it.

The Count Lehrback, who is still here, has been obliged to make an additional demand for provisioning the Austrian Army for which prompt payment will be made. The re-establishment of the order of Malta in Bavaria, the abolition of which was one of the first acts of the present reign, is in serious consideration.

A Courier from the Archduke Charles arrived here the Day before Yesterday on his way to Vienna, with an account of the massacre of two of the French Ministers at Radstadt, Jean Debry escaped dangerously wounded.

[*Cypher.*] I have been credibly informed that the Elector has, through His Agent at Paris, asked that Mr. Alquier may be sent to reside here after the Peace. [*Cypher ends.*]—I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From H.R.H. *the* PRINCE OF WALES *to the* Hon. ARTHUR PAGET.

CARLTON HOUSE, *Thursday Night, May 30th*, 1799.

MY DEAREST ARTHUR,—I am only this moment arriv'd in Town, and take up my Pen instantly to say how truly happy I am at the thoughts of seeing you again, pray call on me early in the morning as there is no one living loves you more sincerely or more, than your ever affectionate GEORGE.

From H.R.H. *the* PRINCE OF WALES *to the* Hon. ARTHUR PAGET.

CARLTON HOUSE, *Monday night, June 17th*, 1799.

What can have happen'd to you my dearest Arthur, if you cannot call early To-morrow morning which I wish you would do, pray let me know where I may write to you as you say that you are going out of Town for some time.—Ever affectionately Yrs, G.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

DROPMORE, *Dec. 3*, 1799.

MY DEAR SIR,—On enquiring into the circumstances of the case I fear there will be more difficulty than I had at first apprehended in giving to your appointments a retrospect to the time when those of Lord Elgin ceased, as that appears to have happened as early as the 5th of April.

Your appointment shall immediately be made out from the 10th October which was about the time that Mr. Grenville left Berlin—& as you will have the double character that difference will pretty nearly compensate for the suspension of your pay as Minister during the intervening six months.

It would probably not be the King's wish that you should proceed to Berlin during the Winter, nor indeed (unless circumstances should change) till the beginning of the Summer. Would it be agreeable to you in the mean time to go for those six months with the double character to Copenhagen, with which Court we are on the point of concluding a treaty of alliance? If it would I will endeavour so to arrange it, if not you will of course have no difficulty in saying so, as I mention it only in that light.—Believe me, &c., (Signed) GRENVILLE.

From the Earl of DALKEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

MAVIS BANK, *Dec. 31st*, 1799.

MY DEAR ARTHUR,—It appears to me that our correspondence generally commences upon your return from a

Mission, then dies away, & recommences upon the eve of your departure for another. To prove this assertion to be true, I presuppose, that what I have heard is *true*, viz., that you are going to supply Sir Wm. Hamilton's Place at Naples. I think you had better supply his place in the full sense of the Word; and occupy Lady Hamilton too, a place you are certainly much better fitted to fill than the old Knight. I do not know how you will like Naples *now;* when I knew it, I thought it charming. There is an old *Cicerone* by the name of Clarke at that place; a very quiet, sensible man whom I think you will like. Pray remember me to him. There was formerly an excellent Breeches maker there, by name, "Gasper Gatti." Though this seems a very trifling remark to make to an *Ambassador*, yet it may prove useful, as I know your excellency likes to show your shapes to advantage. But now suppose I have been misinformed, and that you are *not* going to Naples, what a fund of information is thrown away.

I heartily congratulate you on the very gallant and scientific conduct of L[d] Paget in Holland. I have heard much of it, Sir Rph. Abercrombie talks of him in the highest terms. I wish more of our young Gentlemen would follow his example. I shall be happy to be better acquainted with him hereafter. I shall be in town in March but am afraid shall miss you.—Your sincere friend, DALKEITH.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

PALERMO: 1800-1801

ÆTAT. 29 TO 30

MR. PAGET, having been named Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of the Two Sicilies, in succession to Sir William Hamilton, left England on the 27th of January 1800, on his way to Palermo, whither Their Sicilian Majesties had transferred their Court.

As he was to pass through Germany, he was entrusted by the Prince of Wales with a mission to Prince Augustus, then residing in Berlin, on a matter of very great delicacy. Owing to ill-health, H.R. Highness was unable to leave Berlin in order to meet Mr. Paget and the commission had therefore to be executed by letter. The exchange of letters with Prince Augustus will be found in the correspondence of this period.

Although this has no pretension to be an historical Work, it may now be convenient to record here very briefly the principal circumstances in connection with the affairs of Europe, or more especially of Italy and Naples, in the years 1800-1801 and immediately preceding years, in order the better to elucidate the subjects with which the correspondence of this period is more particularly concerned, although it is by no means confined to the position of things in the Italian Peninsula.

By the Treaty of Campo Formio (October 1797) which deprived Austria of a great part of her Italian possessions, as well as of Flanders and the line of the Rhine, the Ionian Islands and part of her Venetian territory, hostilities were temporarily suspended between the Empire of Austria and the French Republic, but were renewed by the latter both in Germany and Italy on the 1st of March 1799.

The suspension of hostilities between Austria and

France, consequent upon the Treaty of Campo Formio, did not prevent the French continuing their career of conquest, spoliation, treachery, and revolution, first in the North and Centre, and subsequently in the South of Italy. The King of Sardinia, who had been cruelly and shamefully treated by the French, had been compelled to fly from his capital and take refuge in the island of the same name. Tuscany and the Roman States had been overrun, revolutionised, and plundered. Pope Pius VI. had been deposed and, after taking refuge in Tuscany where he had been subjected to every indignity, had been transported to France, where he died (1798-99).

The Neapolitan Court and Cabinet, alarmed by these events, took measures for the defence of the Kingdom. A respectable force under the command of the Austrian General Mack (afterwards notorious for the Capitulation of Ulm) was assembled on the frontiers of the Roman States, but owing to the faulty disposition of the Generals and the cowardice of the Neapolitan troops, every battle was gained by the French under Championnet, who shortly after arrived with his army before Naples. Upon this the King and Royal Family embarked on board Lord Nelson's fleet (Dec. 21, 1798), and were conveyed to Palermo.

The struggle was then continued under the auspices of the Democratic leaders, who, however, after some show of resistance, concluded an armistice and sided with General Championnet, which so exasperated the Lazzaroni that they flew to arms, and made the most desperate resistance in the streets of the capital, notwithstanding that the Forts of St. Elmo and Castel del Novo had been traitorously delivered over to the Enemy. Being at last overcome, the Lazzaroni were immediately disarmed by the French troops and their Neapolitan democratic sympathisers. Royalty was abolished and the "Parthenopeian Republic" proclaimed in its stead.

A Commissary of the Directory arrived shortly after. He proclaimed the sequestration of all the Royal and Monastic property, and decreed such other violent measures that Championnet suspended the Decree, was therefore recalled by the Directory, and was succeeded

by Macdonald. But the confiscations, plunderings and persecutions continued with unabated vigour.

In consequence of events in the North of Italy, Macdonald retired from Naples with his troops in the summer of 1799, and shortly after their departure the Royal authority was re-established in the capital.

The most severe measures of retaliation followed thereupon, and, amongst others who were executed, was the Neapolitan Admiral Francesco Caracciolo, who had rebelled against his own sovereign, joined the French, and fired upon the very Neapolitan ship of war on which he was made to expiate his treasonable conduct, by being hung at the fore-yard arm of the Neapolitan frigate *Minerva*, notwithstanding his petition to be shot. A somewhat dramatic occurrence, it may perhaps be remembered, followed his execution, viz., that his body having been thrown into the sea without having been sufficiently weighted, floated up from the bottom the next day and appeared at the stern of Lord Nelson's flagship, head and shoulders out of water, while the British Admiral and his guests were at dinner.

The historian Alison, as well as some other writers, chiefly French, make it a reproach against Lord Nelson that he signed the order for this execution, and did not interfere to prevent Caracciolo being hung instead of shot, but, in the first place, the petition was addressed not to Lord Nelson but to Commodore Count Thurn, the Commandant of the *Minerva*, and it must be remembered that Caracciolo had been found guilty by a court martial, composed of officers of his own nationality, of about the most heinous crime which could well be committed by an officer in his position, viz., that of siding with the enemy against his own King and country and of firing upon a ship of the navy to which he belonged.

I think it right to point out an error in Sir A. Alison's account of these transactions when he speaks of the King and Queen being present at Naples at this period, and adds that "the King speedily returned to Sicily, not wishing to be a witness of these executions, and left the administration of justice in the hands of the Queen and Lady Hamilton."

The fact, however, is that the Queen was at Palermo at this time, as is proved by Her Majesty's letters to Lady Hamilton, who, with Sir William, had come to Naples on board Lord Nelson's flagship, dated the 18th, 24th and 25th of June, the date of Caracciolo's execution being the 29th of that month. These letters are published in a pamphlet by Raffaele Palambo, entitled "Maria Carolina Regina delle Due Sicilie, suo Carteggio con Lady Emma Hamilton. Documenti inediti con un Sommario storico della relazioni Barbonico del 1799, &c., &c. Napoli, 1877."

It is true that the Queen in her letters to Lady Hamilton did urge that the most relentless measures should be adopted against those who had been in rebellion against their lawful Sovereign, but I would venture here to remark that, whatever may be the judgment upon Queen Caroline for what she did on this occasion, it would be only fair and just to bear in mind that Her Majesty had had bitter experience in her own family, by the death of her sister, Marie Antoinette, only a very few years before, under the guillotine, of the effects of a policy of leniency, timidity and vacillation in stemming the revolutionary current, and it is therefore perhaps not unnatural that her conduct should have been to some extent influenced by these fearful recollections.

The democratic party having been thoroughly subdued, the King's authority re-established, and order and tranquillity restored in Naples, it was thought advisable by the British Government that the King should return with his Court to his capital, and Mr. Paget on proceeding to his Mission at the beginning of 1800 was especially instructed to urge his Sicilian Majesty to adopt this course. He accordingly did his utmost from the time of his arrival at Palermo until he left it the following year, to induce the King's advisers to get His Sicilian Majesty to follow this advice, and his correspondence records some sharp conversational skirmishes with General Acton on the subject, but nothing which he said was able to overcome the weakness of King Ferdinand and his Ministers, and His Majesty continued to reside in Palermo.

Vice-Admiral Lord Keith was at that time in command of the naval forces of Great Britain in the Mediterranean, and his letters to Mr. Paget, of which a vast number will be found, are highly characteristic of this fine old British sailor. I think it better to give these letters exactly as they were written in regard to punctuation, spelling, &c., in order not to detract in any way from their originality.

Mr. Paget's nomination to this post was (perhaps not unnaturally) highly displeasing to the Hamiltons; in which sentiment the Queen appears to have fully participated (although, judging by her correspondence with him in 1802, Her Majesty's feelings towards him appear to have undergone later a favourable change), and Mr. Paget had grounds for believing that it was to Her Majesty and Lady Hamilton that he was indebted for an effort which was made, not very long after his arrival at Palermo, to induce the King to apply for his recall.

In any case, instead of following the usual rule in diplomacy for the retiring Minister to afford every facility and assistance to his successor on entering upon the duties of his mission, Sir William Hamilton threw every impediment in Mr. Paget's way, even to the extent of delaying the presentation of his letters of recall so as to prevent Mr. Paget having an audience of the King and Queen to present his letters of credence.

Before arriving at his post, Mr. Paget addressed a letter to Lord Grenville from Florence relative to a plan he had conceived for overturning the existing Government in France, viz., by gaining over General Kleber, who was in command of the French troops in Egypt, but which plan, as he acknowledged, was probably at that moment unrealisable, owing to the signature of the Treaty of El-Arish (January 1800), for the evacuation of Egypt by the French troops with their arms and baggage. This Treaty was disavowed by the British Government who, six weeks previously, had sent orders to Lord Keith not to consent to any Treaty, which did not stipulate that the French army were to be prisoners of war, of which his Lordship had already informed General Kleber. Hostilities were therefore renewed. Lord Grenville's

answer on this subject will be found in the correspondence of this year.

Amongst the important events of the year 1801 may be mentioned the change of Ministry in England on the 10th of February, Mr. Pitt and Lord Grenville being succeeded by Mr. Addington and Lord Hawkesbury. In this year also took place the glorious campaign in Egypt, commenced under General Sir Ralph Abercrombie, who received a mortal wound in the battle of Alexandria, on the 21st of March, and was succeeded by General Lord Hutchinson.

In consequence of the hostile policy adopted by the Emperor Paul towards England, war had been declared by the British Government against Russia, January 1801. The Emperor Paul was assassinated in April and was succeeded by Alexander I., who immediately reversed the policy of his predecessor. Lord St. Helens was sent as Ambassador to St. Petersburg in May of this year, and peace between the two countries was concluded on the 17th of June following.

Austria having been completely defeated both in Germany and Italy was compelled to accept the Peace of Luneville (February 1801); an armistice, followed by peace, was concluded between France and Naples shortly afterwards, according to the terms of which Neapolitan Ports were to be closed to the British Flag, and an Embargo to be laid upon British shipping which had not left the Neapolitan Ports within six days after the signature of the Treaty. Nothing could be more generous than the manner in which these stipulations were treated by the British Government, who informed Mr. Paget that the King of the Two Sicilies, and his Government, in accepting these conditions, should be held as having yielded to necessity only, and not as having acted in a hostile spirit towards Great Britain.

Mr. Paget had already been acting in the spirit of these instructions previous to their reception. Shortly afterwards, however, in consequence of his suspicion that the French intended to take possession of some of the Neapolitan and Sicilian Ports, Mr. Paget gave the Sicilian Government due warning that however disposed we might be, in consideration of the present circum-

stances, to put up with the Armistice, still that we could not allow it to be broken, and that therefore we should attack the French wherever we could find them, and he called upon the Sicilian Government to assist in an undertaking in which their own interests were so evidently concerned. His action was supported by the presence of Admiral Sir John B. Warren who, with the Squadron under his command, had been in pursuit of the French Fleet, commanded by Admiral Gantheaume. In writing to Lord Keith with reference to the Orders issued to the British Naval Commanders not to enter Sicilian or Neapolitan Ports, and to abstain from any other act of violence which might expose His Sicilian Majesty or his territories to any further demands or insult from the French, Mr. Paget expressed the conviction that these instructions were issued prior to its being known, or even imagined in England that the Ports of His Sicilian Majesty were to be occupied by the French, who would not fail to require the Sicilian Government to furnish them with succours for their expedition to Egypt, "measures which are evidently acts of positive and violent hostility" against Great Britain.

Early in 1801, a desire for Peace began to prevail both in England and France, and a communication was accordingly made on the 21st of March by Lord Hawkesbury to M. Otto, the French Commissary, for the exchange of prisoners, who had remained on in London, stating the willingness of the British Government to commence negotiations. The first proposals of the British Cabinet were rejected, but the negotiations continued, and the preliminaries of peace were signed by Lord Hawkesbury and M. Otto on the 1st of October. These preliminaries led in the following year to the Peace of Amiens.

Lord Minto, whose letters from Vienna are full of interest, resigned his mission to that Court in March 1801, his "Anti-Gallican zeal" not disposing him, as he informed Mr. Paget, "to serve after the Peace of Luneville and all that is to follow." His Lordship was succeeded in Vienna by Mr. Paget.

I should wish to draw particular attention to the description given in Mr. Paget's despatches, of the condition of the Kingdom of Naples, Civil, Military and

Religious, of the characters of the King and Queen of the Two Sicilies and the personal relations between them, as well as his account of the state of Court and Public Administrations, all of which I venture to think well worthy of perusal.

I should wish further to draw attention to Mr. Paget's letter to his mother, Lady Uxbridge, of the 24th of April, in which he gives his opinion upon the Catholic Emancipation Question, and deprecates any interest being made to obtain advancement for him in his profession.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to the* Earl of UXBRIDGE.

End of 1799.

MY DEAR FATHER,—They want to send me to Sicily, where every thing is at sixes and sevens, and which at this moment is unquestionably a place of the highest importance to us; but it is not Sicily only, the Plan is I fancy to give me the *entire management of every thing* in the Mediterranean, Adriatic, Archipelago, &c. &c. in short nothing can be more flattering than the offer & manner in which it has been *pressed* upon me. I have desired ten days to consider of it. If I ultimately decline the thing, it will be from not feeling myself equal to the enormous & difficult & important Duties of, at *this particular juncture,* so great a situation. This at least will be one of the principal reasons. Pray don't let this go beyond my mother & yourself—in short it is a situation which before I came to England was offered to *Lord Wellesley.* You may therefore judge of the Importance Ministers attach to it, but let me entreat of you not to mention this to any human being but my Mother, as it is a *very great secret.*—Good night, my Dear Father, Most Dut. & aff. yours, A. P.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* H.R.H. Prince AUGUSTUS.

HALBER STADT, *Febry.* 3ª, 1800.

SIR,—Previous to my departure this day sen'night from England, the Prince of Wales expressed to me a particular wish that I should confer with Y.R.H. upon a subject highly interesting to you, and for this Purpose H.R.H. was desirous that I should pass thro' Berlin, but being satisfied with the reasons I gave for wishing to decline going there, He authorized me to propose to Y.R.H. to do me the honor to meet me at some other place.

It is my intention, and I trust nothing will happen to prevent it, to be at Dresden to-morrow night, when I shall await your pleasure, and hold myself in readiness to set out in order to meet Y.R.H. at some distance from that place on the Berlin Road, but I take the liberty of observing to Y.R.H. that I am absent on the King's Service, & that I am extremely anxious to pursue my journey to Vienna & pass thence to Naples, circumstances which will I am sure have their proper weight with Y.R.H. in fixing the time & the Place, provided this plan meets with yr approbation. On the other hand should it not suit your convenience, I must ask Y.R.H.'s Permission to communicate the Prince of Wales' message to You in writing. It only remains for me to request that your R.H. will be pleased to signify to me your Commands with as little delay as possible.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From H.R.H. Prince AUGUSTUS FREDERICK *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

BERLIN, *February the 4th*, 1800.

MY DEAR SIR,—A few Minutes ago I received Your very polite Letter which would have engaged me to set out immediately could my Health allow of it. The very severe season which we have had here has been very prejudicial to my Constitution. I have suffer'd so much that in my present Situation my arrival might be attended with fatal Consequences to myself. It is there-

H.R.H. GEORGE, PRINCE OF WALES,
AFTERWARDS GEORGE IV.

fore with Pain that I see myself forced to entreat you to forward me the Prince's Instructions in writing. I am well aware that in not being able to speak to you myself many things that in writing appear trifling, but which tend always to give a better View of the Position of Affairs, will be omitted. As my present misfortune is only a continuation of those with which I have been for so many years harass'd I must bear it with Patience. It is doubly unpleasant for me as it would have given me great Pleasure to have made the Acquaintance of a Brother of one of my most intimate and departed Friends. I trust though that if my Affairs are settled this spring to be able to make you a Visit in the Winter at Naples, and remain with the highest Esteem and Consideration.—
Your ever obliged & Devoted
(Signed) AUGUSTUS FREDERICK.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* H.R.H. Prince AUGUSTUS.

DRESDEN, *5th Febry.* 1800.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your Royal Highness's letter of the 4th Inst., and am most extremely concerned to learn the Cause which deprives me of the satisfaction I should have had, in paying my Respects to your Royal Highness.

It is, as your Royal Highness has remarked, obvious that an Interview would have been the most satisfactory mode of communication, but as that object is unfortunately not to be attained, I shall endeavour to state to your Royal Highness as briefly & as concisely as I can, the message with which the Prince of Wales entrusted me.

The Prince of Wales has seen with real pain the embarrassing situation in which your Royal Highness has been placed for some time past, and in order to relieve you from it, His Royal Highness has left nothing undone which His Affection for your Royal Highness, and having your real welfare at Heart dictated.

But the Prince sees, in common with the Persons who have been consulted, the impossibility of completing Your Royal Highness's wishes upon a certain subject. That Your Royal Highness should convince yourself of the

truth of this Fact by personal and direct communication, and thus avoid the unpleasant task both to Himself and you, the one of sending, the other of listening to Messages, & that your Royal Highness may have an opportunity of ascertaining to their fullest extent a variety of circumstances relating to this unfortunate business which may be learnt upon the spot, but which cannot be made known through the medium of 3rd Persons, H.R.H^{s} proposes that you should make a Journey to England; and the mode w^{h} the Prince suggests for you to adopt for this purpose is that Y.R.H^{s} sh^{d} write a letter to His R.H^{s} expressing a wish to return to England in order to see the Royal Family, which letter the Prince would convey to the King; and the Prince is disposed to think that His Majesty might be induced to give His Consent to this Step. In which Case it is His Royal Highness's desire, and a point on which He dwelt most strongly, that, in case His Majesty did not offer your Royal Highness Apartments at any of the Royal Palaces, you should take up your Residence at Carlton House.

It only remains for me to offer my sincere thanks to your Royal Highness for the very kind and friendly manner in which you have been pleased to express yourself towards me, and to assure you of the very great pleasure with which I shall look forward to the prospect of seeing Your Royal Highness at Naples.—I have the honor, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From H.R.H. *the* PRINCE OF WALES *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

CARLTON HOUSE, *March* 28, 1800.

MY BELOVED ARTHUR,—Four days ago only did I receive your Packet of Letters, as well as the Letter & pipe you was so good as to send me by Hunter, & which I shall most certainly buy & have given the necessary orders to Tyrwhitt to settle the amount as you have desir'd. With respect to the business with which you was so good as to charge yourself respecting my Brother Augustus, it is impossible for any one to have transacted it with more judgment and propriety than

You have, my dearest Friend, & from what we here, on this side of the Water, can judge, in a manner so likely to be conducive ultimately to his advantage, as it has completely broken the Ice, where we had most difficulties to apprehend.

The dear Duchess arriv'd in Town the day before your Letters were brought to us by the Foreign Mails. I assure you I executed your Commission & of all the Creatures the most attached & the most devoted I ever saw, she certainly is the most so, in short the more I see of her & the more I probe her Heart, the *more perfect* I see her, you have really my beloved Arthur a Jewel of the first Water in her, & if you *really know her Value*, your happiness will *be complete indeed*, but not more so than I wish you, or than I really think both of you deserve to be. I would have given any thing in the World, as I told Her, for you to have seen Her last night at Lady Spencer's Assembly, she is ten times more beautiful than ever she was, grown so fat you would hardly know her & with a forehead (to joke for a moment) that outrivals Lady Hertford's in every respect. I complimented her much upon her looks, & she then told me she had some reason to look well and pleased as she had just receiv'd the kindest of Letters from her dearest Arthur, to sum everything in a Word, if you think she did love you, I assure you she perfectly adores you now, can talk of nothing else but you, & the joy she feels at the thoughts of going over to you. As to myself, my Friend, with many thanks for your kind and affectionate jobation, I can only assure you that I follow most strictly your advice. I am under Farquhar's hands who I strictly obey & from whom I already have derived much benefit, but to tell you the honest truth, as things appear in a more favourable light, & become *more favourable*, so my spirits & health reanimate.

We have had many dinners backwards and forwards with many of your or rather our Friends, Garthshere, Legge, Bathurst, &c., but everything is flat, my dearest Arthur, without you, not a glass of wine drunk without a recollection, & I may with great safety (say) without a sigh that you are not present to partake of it with us, & to exhilarate us all. As to politicks as you are in the

very spot I shall not touch upon them, as I have scarce time to write at all to you, owing to the suddenness of Mr. Haytor's departure who will convey this to you, & who I recommend to your protection. For God's sake take care of yourself in the cursed country you have gone into, & pray let me hear from you most frequently, I shall seize every safe opportunity of writing for you well know, my dearest Arthur, how truly you are beloved, by your ever affectionate Friend, GEORGE.

From the Hon. ARTHUR PAGET *to the* Countess of UXBRIDGE.

VIENNA, 12 *Febry.* 1800.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—I take the opportunity of a messenger going from hence to England to inform you of my being thus far on my road, having arrived here yesterday morning. Considering the season of the year, & the extreme badness of the roads part of the way, it was impossible to have made a more expeditious journey. Since my arrival here I have seen some people lately come from Italy, who have no hesitation in saying that no part of that Country is at this moment in a sufficiently secure & tranquil state to make it eligible, or even practicable with safety, for a family to reside there. In some parts, there is internal commotion, anarchy, assassination &c., &c., and in others all the bustle & inconvenience attending the presence of an Army &c., &c. Such is the representation which has been made to me; I shall however soon ascertain the facts, as I am determined at all events to pass thro' the Country, purposely that I may have an opportunity of coming at the knowledge of the state of it. In the mean time will it not be right, nay an indispensable duty to dissuade the Capels from what now appears to me, more than ever, a mad project. I shall therefore beg of you to write to Caroline* upon the subject. But if she is decidedly bent upon going abroad, I scarcely know of a cheaper place than Dresden, or a place where there is so

* Married in 1792 to the Hon. John Thomas Capel, eldest son by second marriage of William, fourth Earl of Essex, by whom she had several children. She died in 1847.—A. P.

little inducement to incur expense, but the necessary expences of life are augmented there, nearly in the same proportion as in England. In the environs which are really beautiful, there are, I fancy, country Houses to be had at a moderate rate, and as my friend Capel must have Game, he will find it there. It is true that Pheasants, which were sold at market some time ago at eighteen Pence or two Shillings a piece, are now not to be bought for less than seven Shillings, Partridges the same, & in short all sorts of Game, which in that Country used to be a very common & cheap Article of Food.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to the* Countess of UXBRIDGE.

MANTUA, *Monday night, 3d March,* 1800.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—I often wish, among other reasons, to have Berkeley with me in order to write to you, as I think, finding himself in countries and among people quite new to him, his letters would be very interesting to you. As far as country goes, all is new to me since I left Germany, tho' in fact from the sort of expeditious way in which I travel, I have hitherto found little or nothing of novelty to me, except indeed this very place which, from its situation, is most remarkable. Yes there is another thing most novel indeed, and strikingly so—it is the hideousness of the women; in my life I never saw anything to equal it. I have not for the last four days seen a single face that was not disgustingly ugly, and I am disposed to think that a female traveller would make the same remark with respect to the Men; in my life I never saw so dreadful a race of people. But this should not make one less shocked at the innumerable vestiges of rapine, pillage, fire, &c., &c., with which the eye is at every instant assailed in travelling thro' parts of the Tyrol & Italy. It is not to be told what the enormities are which that horrible & sacrilegious nation, the French, have committed. I have not patience to enter into any details, nor if I did, would your heart support the perusal of them. I shall leave this place to-morrow morning, and not stop till I get to Florence. I shall there endeavour to pick up

some information which will concern Caroline, if she has not, ere this, given up the plan. There are some parts of the road which would to you be rather objectionable, for instance, there are several miles of it where you drive along the brink of a very steep precipice with the river Adige flowing in the bottom, without even a stick or a stone to prevent an overthrow. As a proof of the truth of what I advance, I must inform you that about six nights ago, being very dark, a postillion driving a chaise with a pair of Horses, by getting a few inches out of the track was hurled to the bottom, himself, & the Horses were drowned, & the Chaise lost. It so happened that I passed that very part of the road in a very dark night, but my courier had the good sense to make two men with lanterns precede the carriage; not knowing the above particulars at the time, I slept most profoundly; and I most sincerely pray that you may do the same every night, as I know that that is the most essential thing to your health and, of course, happiness; I mean comparative happiness, but as nothing is more likely to prevent this than hurting your eyes by decyphering this scrawl, I must in conscience leave off.

From the Hon. ARTHUR PAGET *to the* Countess of UXBRIDGE.

FLORENCE, 13 *March*, 1800.

I have not failed to make every enquiry possible relative to the state of this Country, in as far as it regards certain plans and persons. I find that it enjoys a perfect state of internal tranquility—that the people are happy amongst themselves & industrious—the Tuscans indeed have always been considered as the most civilised people of Italy and, as far as I can judge, the French, far from having left any poison in the minds of the Inhabitants of this Country, are abhorred & execrated to an almost incredible degree.

It is a very cheap country to live in, tho' necessaries of life are here, as in all others, considerably augmented within late years. Parts of the Country between this place & Pisa, which is on the road to Leghorn, must be really beautiful in Summer, and there would, I am told,

be no difficulty in procuring a very good country house at a small rent. All this sounds tolerably well. However Climate, Country, Rivers & Mountains, &c. &c. do not remove the obstacle which always presents itself to my mind, when this subject is agitated, and till it is plainly demonstrated to me that the French cannot again ravage this country, I cannot in my conscience advise the measure. As to any other part of Italy, it must not be thought of, for I am afraid that all the rest nearly is in a state of confusion, wretchedness and misery.

From Lord ELGIN* *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[Private.] CONSTANTINOPLE, *March* 8, 1800.

DEAR PAGET,—Few things were so little in my mind when we last met, as that I should have to write to you at this time in the quality of a colleague at Naples. I do not however congratulate you the less sincerely on your appointment. No one knows better than I do the luxury of escaping from German Politicks, and Berlin Stupidity—and I shd conceive that while there is, as at present, importance in the mission of Naples, that must be the most desirable one in Europe.

During a week's stay at Palermo, on my passage here, the necessity of a change in our representative, and in our conduct there, appeared to me most urgent. You may perhaps know from Lord Grenville, how strong my impression on that subject was, and if so, you will have little difficulty in believing that I rejoiced much in your nomination, on account of business, as well as for the sake of the intercourse that will, I hope, now be carried on between our two stations. . . . . .

I do not waste your time and my own by useless lamentations on the pitiful capitulation in Egypt.†

* Ambassador at Constantinople.

† The Convention of El Arish, signed Jan. 28, 1800, by which Kleber agreed to evacuate Egypt on condition his troops were safely conveyed to France. The negotiations had been carried on with Sir Sidney Smith, who signed himself as "the Commander of H.B. Majesty's Squadron in the Levant" and also as "Minister Plenipotentiary." As he had been ambassador at Constantinople before Lord Elgin's coming, and so far as was known in Egypt, was not yet superseded, Kleber placed full confidence in the powers he assumed to make terms. The English Cabinet, however, repudiated the Convention. The order reached Sir Sidney Smith on Feb. 21. Kleber had already carried out in the main his part of the treaty.

Thank Heavens I had nothing to do with it. Nor shall I give you the detail of a conference I have had here, on the orders sent in Decr. last to the commanding officers in the Mediterranean.* But as for remedying the evil here, You must know it is an absurdity to suppose that a Turkish Minister at Constantinople would take upon himself to act contrary to the Grand Vizier in Egypt.† If any remedy is to be attempted by arrangement, Lord Keith or Lord Nelson must go down to Egypt, otherwise nothing can be done to purpose. In the present state of our naval superiority, we are to blame if we ever speak without a fleet, or employ other negociators than steady old sailors.

I have mentioned to Lord Keith some points which may be improved so as to prevent the mischief of this Capitulation.‡ In a former letter one was named which bears an immediate reference to your situation—it is that the Neapolitan interests are entirely omitted in the Convention. Something may also be expected from the insolence and impatience of the French, from the effect of the delays to which they will be unexpectedly subjected, and from their regret at abandoning Buonaparte's conquest when they hear of his advancement and power.§

But still I hope matters will be so continued as not to bring any insult or discredit on the Turkish flag. For after all Turkey has literally done no more than use the means that were never disputed for the recovery of its own province, and has obtained better terms than the agent of its ally actually proposed.

I enclose copies, which you may probably not have seen, of the papers that passed between Sir S. Smith and the French Deputies on board the Tigre. Nothing therefore would be so unjust as to bring disrespect on Turkey for its conduct on this occasion. Nor would it be more politick than just. The post we have taken of becoming a party in the Alliance between Russia and Turkey is by no manner of means a Sinecure,

* The order to repudiate the treaty reached Keith early in January.

† See letter to Lord Keith, April 24.

‡ See Lord Keith's letter, April 20. He had been Admiral in the Levant before he became Commander-in-Chief in the Western Mediterranean.

§ As "First Consul": revolution of 18 Brumaire (November 9, 1799).

and independent of any actual service to be rendered, it is no easy matter to support Turkey in the ordinary occurrences so as to prevent the great disproportion between the two powers from encreasing further. You know enough of the Court of Petersburg to be prepared on this subject, but a short residence at Naples will furnish you fresh proofs of my observation being applicable to the Events before us. It's probable that the Emperor himself may disclaim all views of conquest on Turkey, but I defy a Russian agent to divest himself of the idea that by working for that object he is performing the most essential service to his sovereign, and accordingly we must expect that were we to give the Example of dishonouring the Turkish flag it w^d. lead to innumerable imitations. This observation brings me to the proceedings at Corfu.* You will hear of them accurately from M. Foresti; and you will see that not only the Turks but even our inoffensive levies under Gen^l. Villettes† have given rise to many very unpleasant scenes. All these considerations call for the same remedy and that is the presence of an English fleet. Its appearing, and its calling occasionally, at the Ports where other fleets are, would alone suffice to ensure that degree of influence which we wish to exercise, and not only keep our friends right, but also facilitate more than all other means the attaining the advantages we may desire for our commerce. These ideas are unfit for anything but a most private communication. They may however enter into the combinations, in case Lord K. or Lord N. should cruize to the Eastward.

On these and similar subjects I shall be extremely happy of any information you can send me. I would particularly beg to know what is doing with Malta, and what are the prospects there. Probably the Admiral may send back Donaldson with an answer to the letter he now carries. I wish it may be so. In that case pray say what cyphers you have—I have from G. to M. inclusive.—Believe me ever, dear Paget, &c.,

(Signed) ELGIN.

* Corfu had been ceded to the French by the treaty of Campo Formio. It was taken by the Russian fleet in March 1799, by orders of Suvaroff, then Commander-in-Chief of the Russian and Austrian forces by land and sea.

† Commanding a corps of Albanians in Corfu in the pay of England.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[Private.] FLORENCE, *12th March*, 1800.

MY LORD,—I had prepared, and it was my intention to have sent to your Lordship, a detailed Letter upon a subject which has occupied my mind very much of late, but the treaty lately concluded under the Auspices of Sir Sydney Smith having created so total a change in the affairs in that Country, it appears to me superfluous to trouble your Lordship with it. I will however just state that my idea was, *to gain Gen^l. Kleber and his whole Army, & to send them to co-operate with Gen^l. Willot in the South of France.*

Tho' I say to gain, I meant to be understood that I thought the business might be done with little or even without money, that is for the purpose of Corruption, as upon the information I had been able to obtain about the character of Gen^l. Kleber, the principal officers under him such as Desaix, Menou, &c., and upon a reference to Kleber's letters in the last intercepted correspondence from Egypt, I was induced to believe that himself and his whole Army are so completely disgusted with their late and present rulers that they would gladly enter into a league to overthrow the existing French Government.*

I have a person in my eye & within reach whom I had proposed to employ in this business. He was formerly intimately acquainted as well with Kleber as with some of his officers, & is to have a command in the South under Gen^l. Willot. I should have wished him to have been accompanied by some English officer, that they should have landed on any part of the Coast of Egypt, have proceeded to the French Head Quarters and there have made such favourable overtures to Gen^l. Kleber for delivering France from its present yoke as I am inclined to believe he would have accepted.

I will not conceal from Y^r. L^p. that I communicated

* Kleber, indignant at what he regarded as the desertion of the troops in Egypt by Bonaparte, and alarmed at the approach of Sir S. Smith, accompanied by 20,000 good Turkish troops, wrote mournful despatches exaggerating these facts. The despatches fell into the hands of the English, who published them as they held Bonaparte up to execration as a "lost man," who had abandoned his countrymen.

this plan to L^d. Keith, so that had things been in such a situation that it might have been approved, there would have been no time lost in making the necessary preparations by Sea for the execution of it, for I presume no difficulty would have been made by the King of France, or by the Ottoman Porte, to the Evacuation of Egypt by the French on those terms.

Such my Lord is the outline of the Plan, & I think I could have answered for the complete success of it under the circumstances then existing. Whether there is sufficient merit in it to make it worth considering as to the practicability of executing it now, is what I humbly submit to yr. L^p.

I am just returned from Leghorn, from which place I set out the day after my arrival here in order to concert with Ld. Keith about the return of the King of Naples to his Capital. I shall proceed without delay on my journey thither.—I have, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

LEGHORN, *17th March*, 1800.

MY DEAR FRIEND—All our schems are broke in upon by the sad misfortune of the Charlotte having taken fire without the Road this morning in her Way to reconoitre Caprea and is now totally consumed and me without a Scrap of paper on any Subject I Observed her on fire about ½ past seven she blew up about eleven none of the Vessels are yet returned which I had sent off but I fear many are lost I saw the Spit sail yard break by the Weight of men on it of Course men must have been Lost. It blows fresh from the Land nothing will be in for some time yet 12th 6 A M all are come that ever will 157 a sad account Your distressed friend

(Signed) KEITH.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Admiral Lord KEITH.

NAPLES, *March 23rd*, 1800.

MY DEAR LORD,—I think it my duty to send off a person with the advice which has just been received here by an English Merchant.

The following is an extract of the letter.

"MESSINA, 16 *March*, 1800.

"The French Army in Egypt have surrendered—they are to have two months time to embark, and are to be sent home to France by the English. *Some transports have passed here with the troops; on board of one were two French Generals, they go first to Palermo.*"

It is only the latter part of the above which as you may suppose induces me to send to you, in case you should not already be apprized of the circumstance.

Since writing the above I have received this moment the melancholy intelligence of the fate of the Queen Charlotte, which has so unmanned me that I protest to you that I am nearly incapable of holding my pen. Thank God for having directed Your Lordship to remain on shore. It is the comfort I have in a moment of real misery. Pray let me hear from you and Believe me ever my dear Lord, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. ARTHUR PAGET *to the* Countess of UXBRIDGE.

I have not been able to get a house, nor is there such a thing in the whole place as a furnished one. What I am to do I know not, as I have neither the means or inclination to encounter such an expence; every thing like furniture was either destroyed or pillaged in the late revolution. Sir Wm. Hamilton does not give up his house, as he means to return here next winter, & will probably finish his days here. I wish you could transport yourself here, for you would certainly delight in the Climate, the Sea, the View, &c., &c., tho' I should not be selfish enough to wish you to stay more than a very very short time.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 1.] NAPLES, 25 *March*, 1800.

MY LORD,—On my arrival here on Thursday last, it was my intention to proceed immediately to Palermo, but it is remarkable that there has not been a vessel of any

sort here in which I could make the passage, and it was not till yesterday that I was enabled to settle with the Master of an English Merchantman for my conveyance.

From the information I have been able to obtain, both in my passage through the Country and during the few days I have been here, it is with concern I state that the situation of Affairs both in the Capital and in the Provinces, on a retrospect comparatively good, is still such as to give ground for much uneasiness. I have been here too short a time to enable me to enter into a detail of circumstances, but I risk nothing in saying that it is the universal wish among every Class of the Neapolitans to see the return of their Sovereign to his Capital. I understand, however, that the taking of Genoa is, among others, an event which is now considered as necessary to secure the safety of such a measure.

There have not been any executions here for above three weeks, but I have learnt with much astonishment that, in very numerous instances, France has been the Place of banishment for having offended against the State. From what I can collect there does not seem to exist a shadow of anything like order or regularity in any individual department in the state. I have seen and conversed with the persons at the head of them all. They all complain of the situation of Affairs, and agree upon the positive and imperious necessity of the King's return here. They frequently petition to that Effect, but I understand that the King is surrounded by a parcel of timid Sicilians who do not fail to represent the danger of such a step. I fear that the Junta here is composed, with one or two exceptions, of a corrupt, bad set of men. Law and Justice are neither practised or understood. As to the Troops I have hitherto seen, their appearance is, with few exceptions, nearly as bad as their reputation, particularly the officers. I apprehend that unless a radical change of things takes place in this Government, and that soon, new scenes of confusion and bloodshed are likely to happen. I believe that the French themselves are, in general, execrated, but their principles have made too many proselytes (for I know that at this moment there exists a regular plot for forming another revolution). I was extremely sorry in coming through the

Roman States to remark the great degree of animosity which exists between that people and the Neapolitans. The latter practice nearly the same system of Government at Rome as is adopted here, and it is vested in the hands of a weak old man (Count Naselli) who is ill surrounded. . . . . .

It is expected that a corps of Russians, who are to land at Brindisi,* will arrive here very soon. At present there are none.

The Establishment of Packets between Naples and Palermo consists of two armed vessels which sail to and fro every ten days, without they should be wanted for any other service, as is the case at present, for that which was to have sailed from hence to-morrow or next day is ordered to Civita Vecchia, in order, as I am told, to convey from thence a collection of Paintings and Statues which have been sent by the Neapolitans from Rome, to the very great annoyance of that people.—I have the Honour, &c., (Signed) A. PAGET.

P.S.—Since writing the above I am informed that about 1600 Russians are landed at Otranto from Capri.

From the Hon. ARTHUR PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

NAPLES, 28 *March*, 1800.

I am still detained here for want of a Vessel, but am promised that the one which I have engaged shall put to sea in the course of to-morrow. Your Lordship will I hope do me the justice to believe how anxious I am on every account to arrive at the place of my destination, and of course how vexed I am at this unexpected tho' unavoidable delay.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

LEGHORN, *March* 31*st*, 1800.

MY DEAR PAGET,—Yesterday I received your very kind letter, and return you all my thanks. I am far from well, 'tis true, but I am convinced we are to go on immediately and shall, of course, not be the last on the

* In consequence of the agreement in 1798 to protect Naples.

day appointed. By this conveyance I say no more. Pray if you are at Naples hasten the departure of the Galietts etc. and say how sensible I am of the zeal of the Neapolitan Court. I sent the *Speedy* the first thing which came in to try and catch you. Your french friend went off for Turin in a moment. Melas* is at Aqui. The Elbe is still frozen. Nothing from England, of course. Wyndham† is here. I have been involved in disputes about corn which has ended in my refusing the Austrian passes,‡ and it was full time I did so. Farewell. Write me when you can, and believe me ever,

KEITH.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VADA BAY, *8th April*, 1800, *Audaccous.*

DEAR PAGET,—I cannot refrain taking a moment to tell you we have had two days hard work and that with little loss we are here we were a little Worsted on the right but here complaatly successful Massena is in Genoa with 16000 where he must fight or fall soon,§ Ott is in possⁿ of Toneglia, Dasper, is taken, Getzswin was obliged to retire from the Heights of Nervi I made two feints in his favor and suffered nothing, Melas is in Savona the french hold the Castle but cannot long do so St. Bernard is taken by the Austrians the french have abandoned Finale and Retire towards Albingo and Nice I hope I am employed Landing Provision, Guns, Hay Corn etc. for the Army and hope soon to be in Genoa in the mean time I am sincerly ever Yours, &c.,

(Signed) KEITH.

* Melas, put in command of 120,000 Austrians, succeeded Suvarow, who was ordered out of Italy in Sept. 1799.

† Minister in Florence.

‡ Masséna was sending corn into Genoa, then blockaded by Keith.

§ Genoa had been placed by the treaty of Montebello, 1797, under a democratic constitution with the style of Ligurian Republic. It was protected by 40,000 French troops under Masséna, stationed between Nice and Genoa, when in the spring of 1800 Melas proceeded to blockade the city. On April 5 he advanced with Generals Ott and Hohenzollern. On April 6 Genoa was hemmed in by sea and land, and one of the greatest sieges of modern times began. Masséna made a desperate sortie on the 7th, but the Austrians succeeded in dividing the French army and cutting it off from Genoa.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

I take a moment to thank my friend for his letter public and private, It may be acceptable to your Court to know that on the 5th I got off Quinto near Genoa and made a diversion in favor of the Army which advanced rapidly but on the 6th Gottesheim was repulsed at Monta Fassio with Loss on the 7th Melas came down to Savona in high Style where I was to meet him and supply his needs on the 9th the Whole advanced fighting all the way near to St Peire D'Arrena (Close to Genoa) but on that night (owing to a Negligence) the Left was beaten near Finale and Vada endangered which obliged Melas to Counter March in the Night back to Savona, on the 11th and 12th the french attacked the Heights of St. Jachimo etc but were repulsed with great loss by Gen Elsnitz & St. Jullian and our posts are all regained and yesterday the Gen[l] advanced on the Enemy who fell back this day or to-morrow we intend a gen[l] attack on all sides, the enemy are in a sad plight for food and Shoes and I think will make an effort to pierce Melas's Line and get to the Westward if that fails Capitulate you will be glad to hear the fleet has been of great use in all the operations and you may assure the King I am highly satisfied with his officers Ltt Gen[l] Ott has joined Hochenzollen and are 12000 strong between Messina and Genoa they are to attack in the Rear or to assault Genoa if it is left Weak, I am just moving off Varrazzio where my flottilla are firing If Lord Nelson and Hamilton are still with you tell them all this I have not time at the moment: God bless you all three I am, Yours &c., KEITH.

Off Vada, 16th April, 1800.

We have driven their Convoy of Supplies back to Oneglia 20 Sail from Marsailles. Rem[r] me to my Palermo friends.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

Off VADA, *20th April*, 1800.

MY DEAR PAGET,—I take a moment to tell you that three days ago a Messenger came to tell me the french were

all out* and that Sir Chas. Cotten was sent to reinforce me on the day following another arrived telling me they were all in but in great force and ready and orders to protest against the Egyptian Convention but not to impede it and to prevent its being impeded by the Turcks I have however presumed to add some instructions such as a Parole not to injur the Ter[y] of us or our allies, to press in small numbers as shall be desided, No Cargoes, No Ships of War or Ships or Vessels fit for being armed and I hope I shall in common reason stand guiltless and to the Vizier† I have written he ought to consider this a great condecension of the King to His ally for that He the Vizier had no right to enter into a treaty which affected others so much without their Knowledge and Consent,—From Algiers I have the most Gentle Letter possible in answer to mine which was not quite so mild and I hope to use the moment of favor so as to get the Neapolitans who were really taken in our service relieved,—Here we have had very hard fighting indeed in General it has gone much in our favour the french fought with desperation they are more Active on Mountains than our friends but not more brave and Old Melas out-generaled Massena‡ that Spoiled Child of Victory our Ships and Boats have been of more than considerable use and Gen[l] Melas confesses it and sees a fleet is of Consequence, but it is Cruelly unlucky that on the 18th the day fixed for an attack on Voltri a Calm and strong Currant carried every one of the Ships 20 Miles off and we have not yet been able to recover our former Ground But the Camelion, a Cutter and my Tender with the Launches compensated for our absence by tearing the enemy to pieces and to use Melas's words they filled the Streets with blood and decided the fate of the day—We are so

* Keith sent to Kleber the message: "I have H.B.M.'s orders not to consent to any capitulation unless your troops first lay down their arms and give up all the vessels in the harbour of Alexandria." Kleber therefore opened war on March 20.

† The Grand Vizier had been one of the consenting parties to the Convention of El Arish.

‡ Bonaparte had ordered Masséna to concentrate on Genoa. "Have *four-fifths* of your troops there. The enemy will march upon your right, where the ground is only tenable by infantry. Melas has neither your activity nor your talents, and you with 30,000 can easily stem his march." Masséna failed for once to execute his orders with precision, and Melas advanced on the very lines foreseen by Bonaparte.

far off I have had no communication with the shore to day but hope to tell you soon we are in Genoa* I know we deserve it for in the Town the have but nine days food, the Messenger told me that on the Road he heard a Carrier had come from france and passed thro' the Army of Kray† who ordered Hostilities to stop until the return of the Currier from Vienna Lord Carysfort is Minister to Prussia His Sons Ship is said to be carried into Brest by the Crew *Bad*—Your Brother returned from Gibr because there was no flag-officer to give him orders—Lord Bridpot still holds the Channel fleet farewel my good friend I am Yours (Signed) KEITH.

Lord Nelson has asked to go home I have submited the request to the Ady. but as it is on account of health I have offered the Culloden or the first frigate I have to carry him and his friends and I am sorry I cannot do better for Him.

From the Hon. ARTHUR PAGET *to the* Countess of UXBRIDGE.

PALERMO, 17*th April*, 1800.

It is now about three months since I left England and I have not received a line from any body ; eight or nine mails are due from England. I had yesterday a letter from Rome which says that by their latest accounts the Elbe was frozen up. It is a terrible thing that there should be no other communication from England to the Continent than thro' that vile place Cuxhaven.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord KEITH.

PALERMO, 24 *April*, 1800.

MY DEAR LORD,—. . . . In considering L[d] Elgin's dispatch ‡ to you No. 7 & the inclosure annexed to it, there are two circumstances which occur, & which it appears to me difficult to combine. In the second page he says " every act of the Grand Vizir has had Sir S. Smith's sanc-

* Masséna was completely shut into Genoa by the victories of the Allies, April 18–20.

† Commanding the Austrian forces on the Upper Danube.

‡ *Cf.* Lord Elgin's letter to Mr. Paget, March 8.

tion, & when the French deputies were named, it was on board the Tigre, & without the participation of any Turkish Plenipotentiary, that an armistice contrary to the express wishes of the Grand Vizir was agreed to, & the first overtures for the evacuation actually made"—whereas, from the whole tenor of the Kaimakan Pacha's letter to Y^r L^p it is evident that the first overtures for a convention were made by Gen^l Kleber to the G. Vizir, which were acceded to by the latter and communicated subsequently to Sir S. Smith. As therefore it is left to Y^r L^p to choose upon the principle of which of these two papers you will act,* I would presume you would give the preference to the one which is the least opposed to the spirit of y^r instructions for intercepting the transports from Egypt, for there is unquestionably a wide difference between being a principal party in a treaty, as is the case with S^r Sydney according to L^d Elgin's statement, & from being unavoidably brought into the becoming a party, which the Kaimakan Pacha's letter clearly indicates to be Sir Sydney Smith's situation. Not that I can be brought to think that the Interests of G^t Britain ought to suffer in either case, which would in my mind be the case if 12, or 14,000 French are suffered to escape from Egypt. You will therefore, I am sure, forgive me my dear Lord if I say one word or two upon this subject.

If, as it appears, it is the intention of the Turkish Gov^t either to transport the French Troops in their own Men of War, or use those Men of War for the purpose of convoying the transports in which these troops may be embarked to the ports of France, it is I should think as much an inimical act towards us as if Sweden, for instance, should send a Squadron to sea for the purpose of seeing transports carrying assistance to the enemy safe into port. If therefore this would be considered as an hostile Act on the part of a power calling itself neutral, *a fortiori* I should imagine a similar act performed by a Power acknowledgedly in a state of the Closest Alliance might be looked upon as at best a very suspicious token of Friendship. But if facts were wanting, which they certainly are not,

* Sir S. Smith appealed to the Cabinet not to be guilty of the shame of disavowing a treaty made by him in English interests and acted on by the French. After some time they sent orders to Lord Keith to execute the treaty in full, but it was too late, and the French refused the offer.

to make the execution of Y^r L^p's Instructions towards the French coming from Egypt excusable, there happen to be two most glaring acts of perfidy on the part of the French which at once dispensed us from the observance of any treaty which may have been concluded, & in virtue of which they were to evacuate Egypt. I allude in the first place to the fact of y^e Prisoners made by L^d Nelson at Aboukir & which is so properly stated in L^d Elgin's Dispatch to Y^r L^p, and in the next to the Genoese Vessel having a French General, &c. &c. on board captured off Malta, in which ship were found a considerable amount of ammunition of all sorts, evidently destined to be thrown into Malta for the relief of that important fortress.* Any one therefore who is acquainted with the articles of Capitulation between the G. Vizir & Gen^l Kleber, & who will at the same time consider the nature of this last mentioned violation of Faith, cannot, I should suppose, doubt as to the Justice, nay imperious necessity, for our endeavouring to annul the execution of this convention.

A proper remonstrance grounded upon these facts cannot, I should suppose, fail to have the desired effect upon the Grand Vizir, but if delivered from an English Quarter Deck its weight would no doubt be decisive.

I beg pardon for troubling you with these remarks, I will now proceed to what concerns me rather more nearly.

Notwithstanding that I have been (here) above a fortnight I only presented my letters of Credence yesterday, Sir Wm. Hamilton having refused to present his recall till the day before he sailed. I am sorry to tell you that there has been a good deal of sad dirty work in all this, but I quite forgive Sir William, tho' his advisers are much to blame.

However I have had frequent conferences with Gen^l Acton,† who at once received me as Minister, & I am glad

* Malta was blockaded by the English from August 1798 to Sept. 1800.

† Sir John Acton, 1736–1811; President of the Council at the Neapolitan Court. The son of Edward Gibbon's travelling physician, settled at Besançon, he entered the naval service of Tuscany, and served in 1775. In 1779 he reorganised the Neapolitan navy. Promoted by Queen Caroline, he equipped great naval forces, and raised the army to 60,000. He overthrew the Spanish influence in Naples in 1793, and entered into alliance with Austria and England, introduced English officers, and put the fleet under Nelson's orders. Acton's reign of terror, after the restoration of the King by Cardinal Ruffo and his army of Calabrians, lasted from 1799 to 1804, when he was removed from power. He succeeded to the baronetcy in 1791, and died 1811.

to have it in my power to tell you that the King has at length given his consent to return to Naples. It is not in my power to inform you of the exact time—H. S. M^{y} wishes to put it off till the last moment, and talks of July as the time, but I trust that we shall be able to bring about an earlier departure. I have already expressed your readiness to accommodate them as far as naval prepa rations depend. It is told me in confidence that the Queen is going to Vienna, I will tell you more of this the next time I write which will be in the course of a very few days.

I wish, my dear Lord, we could get a few quiet days at Naples together. I have had a letter from Gen^{l} Villettes who complains sadly of the impediments thrown in his way by the Russian Commanders. I find from him that Y^{r} L^{p} is fully acquainted with all the circumstances. If Gen^{l} Villettes quits Corfu, which he seems to expect, there will I conclude be no difficulty in his coming either to Messina or Malta, & indeed at the latter place his presence with any force he may bring would I should imagine be very acceptable. Elgin is very desirous that you should send back Donaldson.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From MR. WYNDHAM *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

24th April, 1800, FLORENCE.

DEAR SIR,—Massena, who has been beaten for the 2^{d} time at Voltri, retreated on y^{e} same night with the remains of his army, quite depressed and weakened, into Genoa where he is blocked by the Austrians. Gen^{l} Ott is at Voltri, and Bellegarde at Ventimiglia. Gen^{l} Melas is gone to join Bellegarde to reinforce him to attack Gen^{l} Souchets division near Nirre.

All the ports and forts round and close to Genoa are in the hands of the Austrians, and the French army is about to give up.

Lord Keith with the English ships has given great assistance, & the Austrians allow they are under great obligations for his support.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

Off GENOA, *May 6th*, 1800.

DEAR PAGET,—I have a letter from Lord Nelson telling me he is going to Malta with Sir W and Lady Hamilton, but Nothing more I have sent him leave to quit and a frigate to take His Lordship home, Gen. Acton asks for a frigate which I shall order I suppose you know for what purpose it is enough for me to understand the King wishes it and I shall comply as soon as possible I only wish the Gen[l] had named the time as our Ships in War are now Idle, anything absurd coming from the Quarter you mention does not surprize me the whole was a Scene of fulsome Vanity and Absurdity all the *long* eight days I was at Palermo—Whenever the King takes the Salutary measure of returning to His Metropolis I will strain every Nerve to show my respect to the Kings Ally—at present we are at a Stand for want of Guns and Mortars which I had advised to be sent in the first instance we are very Slow had it been otherwise Genoa had been ours on the first day for they took the Due Frattelli and lost it in the Night, food is very Scarce the french lost 2000 men and a General in a Sortie on the 2d—Melas opposed himself to Souchett at St. Espinto but the french abandoned that strong Pos[n] without a Battle on the 4th Melas was at Loana Capt. Morris in the *Pheatom* at Alnbenga the advance on March to Oneglia, I have had communication with Genoa but I held out nothing short of Prisoners at discretion, and desired to see what terms the Inhabitants expected then I would give my answer—You are ere this informed I am authorised to suffer the french to withdraw which may stop Stewarts Expedition one which if well followed up might do much here but I am not one to count much upon any expedition until it is out of the Hands of the Minister and in those of the Officers who are to direct, The Captain of the Speedy tells me his orders were altered and I do not know why or by Whom, but the Sloop is at Mahon I have a letter from Lord Spencer the Combined fleet at Brest on the 10th April, Lord Bridport to retire Lord St. Vincent to Command Duckworth Capture is

considerable I should like to meet Quietly some one place or other.—Very much and ever Yours, &c.,
(Signed) KEITH.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Sir CHARLES WHITWORTH.

PALERMO, 10 *May*, 1800.

MY DEAR WHITWORTH,—Of course you have not thought of answering the letter I wrote to you from Vienna, & probably have no such intention, notwithstanding Your Instructions to correspond with "our ministers residing at the Courts of Foreign Princes for your mutual Information." I shall certainly write to complain of you.

As is usual with me on all similar occasions, I find sad uphill work here. This is such a *cul de sac* that it would (be) ridiculous to attempt sending you any news. Perhaps, indeed, from Malta you might receive it as fresh from hence as from any other place—it therefore happens that that place furnishes none. If they do not send more troops it cannot be taken, nor will it probably fall within 3 months. The Courier who will convey this letter, is charged with all sorts of arrangements about Grand Priorys and Commanderies; &c. &c., all which you will have much pleasure in hearing from Il duca di Serracapriola,* or cola, then. By the bye, the Russian Minister† here is a most valuable man. There is Himself, the Austrian Ambassador,‡ & myself for a Corps Diplomatique, & the latter (I don't mean myself) is a most dreadful personage. There is a talk of his going to Petersburg, if so I shall very sincerely congratulate you, and will, in consequence, furnish you with a few materials of History.

[*Lemon Juice.*]

In my letter from Vienna I wrote you word that my instructions were positive about getting the K. of Naples back to that place, in consequence of which I have had a great deal of dirty work, & the worst of it is that I have not been quite so successful as one might have wished. I have exacted a promise that he will return, but I cannot

* Neapolitan Minister in Petersburg. See notice of him in Mr. Paget's letter of December 23.

† Chevalier D'Italinsky. ‡ Count Esterhazy.

get them to fix an early period; the truth is that H.S.M. *has a very proper sense of Danger*—in other words he is a sad Poltroon, and there are certainly a set of discontented people at Naples who are, as we should say, *up to anything*. The Queen has taken an aversion to me, & *op*poses everything I *pro*pose, but she has lost her Influence and Acton does every thing, & with him I am upon the best terms, save that we quarrel and spar nearly as often (as) we meet. I hope & trust that we shall remove from hence before what I have to ask of you can be put in practice, but I wish you would have instructions sent to the Russian Minister here to second me in this desirable business. He wishes it & sees the necessity of it as much as I do, but he is *not like us*, for he dare not act otherwise than in the letter of his Instructions, & he has none upon this Subject. This Country is really in a most distracted state, & it is expected of me at home that I should do wonders in bringing back order and system; & in short a regular form of Gov^{t}. This, from what I already know, will be a Sisyphean task, but I think that if my friend D'Italinsky could be furnished with Instructions to act with me in this business we might do some good together—*verbum sapienti*.

Everything that goes from hence by this Courier concerning the Order of Malta is I fancy entirely to your Emperor's satisfaction. The Queen of Naples is certainly going to Vienna.* These 2 Courts are always kicking & splashing at one another & she is going to endeavour to reconcile matters, but I have some idea that she might as well save herself the trouble, as I apprehend that M. de Thugut cannot bear her, therefore without she means to turn him out——She takes two or three daughters with her who will be sold to the best bidder.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) A. Paget.

From the Hon. A. Paget *to* Lord Elgin.

[Private.] Palermo, 10*th May*, 1800.

My dear Elgin,—Your very obliging & friendly private letter of the 8th March was delivered to

* The Queen was daughter of Maria Theresa, and the Emperor was her nephew and son-in-law. She had seventeen children.

me with the Dispatches Enclosures &c. &c. to my Lords Keith and Nelson by Donaldson about the 25th of last month. I sent him on the next day to Lord Keith & the dispatches for L^d^ Nelson were immediately delivered to His Lordship who was here at the time. . . . .

As Lord Keith writes to you by this opportunity it would be superfluous that I should dwell upon the principal part of your letter to me. I mean the convention concluded with Gen^l^. Kleber & the subsequent arrangements which you were anxious should be made; you will find that we have altered our minds upon the subject.* Without commenting upon that circumstance, I cannot help expressing my regret to you that Sir Sydney Smith did not oppose the Treaty instead of becoming a party in it. . . . .

As to Genoa we have been in constant expectation for some time past to hear of its capture. I have no later accounts from that place than a letter from L^d^. Keith of 6th ins^t^. brought to me by the Turkish Messenger. He of course writes to you fully upon that subject. The Situation of Malta becomes daily more interesting. The Garrison have subsistence for about 6 weeks or two months longer, and must at the end of that time necessarily capitulate unless fresh succours shall be thrown into the place, which from the circumstance of its being so very closely blocked appears impossible. In the event of its falling, it is to be taken possession of by the combined force composed of English, Russians, & Neapolitans, to be held by them during the War as a deposit in trust for the order of St. John of Jerusalem, which could be re-established as soon as circumstances shall permit, agreably to the system which shall be adopted by the allied Powers. In Corsica there has of late been much fighting & confusion, much to the disadvantage of the French who are stated to have taken refuge in Bastia. It has been whispered that the Emperor of Russia has been at the bottom of this with the intention of securing a Party to himself in that Island, but this was formally denied (!) by ostensible persons in H.I.M^y^. service, who have it is true furnished arms &c. for the salutary purpose of freeing themselves from the French Yoke. As long as the French

* See letter of Mr. Paget, April 24, note.

Fleet can be kept in Brest our Naval force in the Mediterranean is respectable, but should they escape our vigilance in the Channel and arrive here, a circumstance fully expected by L^d^. Keith, it might occasion some embarrassment. On the 10th Apl. they were in Brest ready for Sea, & strong I imagine above 40 line. L^d^. Bridport retires, and is succeeded by L^d^. St. Vincent. Should they arrive here, it will be no doubt for the purpose of relieving either Malta or Genoa or both, & to say the truth I should not be surprised if they attempted, something against either Island, at all events I apprehend that at the present moment it is quite impossible for L^d^. Keith to detach a Squadron upon the theories you allude to in yr. letter to me; however the effect might be salutary. He is in real want of ships and even with the reinforcement mentioned in the former part of this letter, he will not have one too many for the service he is now engaged in.

I was much concerned to learn the difficulties Gen^l^. Villettes has met with, but conceiving that they arose as much from the mutual Antipathy which I understand exists between the Inhabitants of the Island of Corfu and the Albanians as from any opposition on the part of the Russian Com. at Corfu, I have applied to this Court for leave for Gen^l^. Villettes with the Corps under his Command to be received into H.S.M. Dominions, which has very obligingly been complied with, and Brindisi is fixed upon as the place.

It is not necessary for me to enter upon the situation of the Country to a person so well acquainted with the state of affairs here as yourself. One of the principal reasons for sending me here was to engage the Ry^l^. Family to return to Naples. In this, I have met & meet with the utmost difficulty. Some previous necessary measures have to be sure been taken, such as the Passing an Act of Amnesty, regulations respecting the Paper money &c. &c. As things are now the King has promised to return about the month of August. I am fully convinced that he had some time ago renounced all idea of our entering there. The Capital is perfectly quiet, & the Provinces would be the same if he would go back, but if he does not, I will answer for nothing.

The discontents & jealousy between this Court &

Vienna are at their highest pitch, & in truth the former having too much reason to feel uneasy, the Queen of Naples is going to Vienna immediately in the hopes of putting matters to rights, but she would act much wiser to keep out of the Gen$^{l's}$.* way, who cannot I understand bear her, and you are sufficiently acquainted with his character to know what is the consequence of his dislike. As to the idea of very much good in this Country I utterly despair of it.—Ever yours, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. ARTHUR PAGET *to the* Countess of UXBRIDGE.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—The longer I live, the more I am convinced that a conscience is either a very troublesome or a very comfortable companion; but, to speak in plainer language, I must tell you that I am, as usual, unsuccessful in everything I undertake. This is the second mission of some consequence (I do not count the last for anything) I have been sent upon, and I can by no means manage matters to my satisfaction. Without entering into details I refer you to John Villiers, who will of course see my Dispatches by this messenger if he chooses it, & from him you may learn the truth of what I say.

It is now the 29th April & I remain without a line from England. I am thoroughly glad that Berkeley did not accompany me; I don't know what he is about now, but I do know that it would have been so much time lost; he could have learnt nothing.

12th May.

. . . . Who could have told you that I am converted upon the subject of Louisa's† attachment. I really am not, and I do not think it likely that I should have said that I was, without really being so. What I thought, & think, is that it is certain to happen, for the same reason that I presume that Charlotte & Mary will both wish to marry people whom you the most dislike; not, believe me, because I imagine that they will designedly act wrong, on

* General Acton.—A. P.

† Louisa married in 1801 Lt.-Gen. Sir Thomas Erskine, who died in 1825; secondly, Lt.-Gen. the Hon. Sir George Murray, G.C.B. Died 1842.—A. P.

the contrary I have the highest opinion of them both, but because it is fated that we are all to do things that annoy you the most.

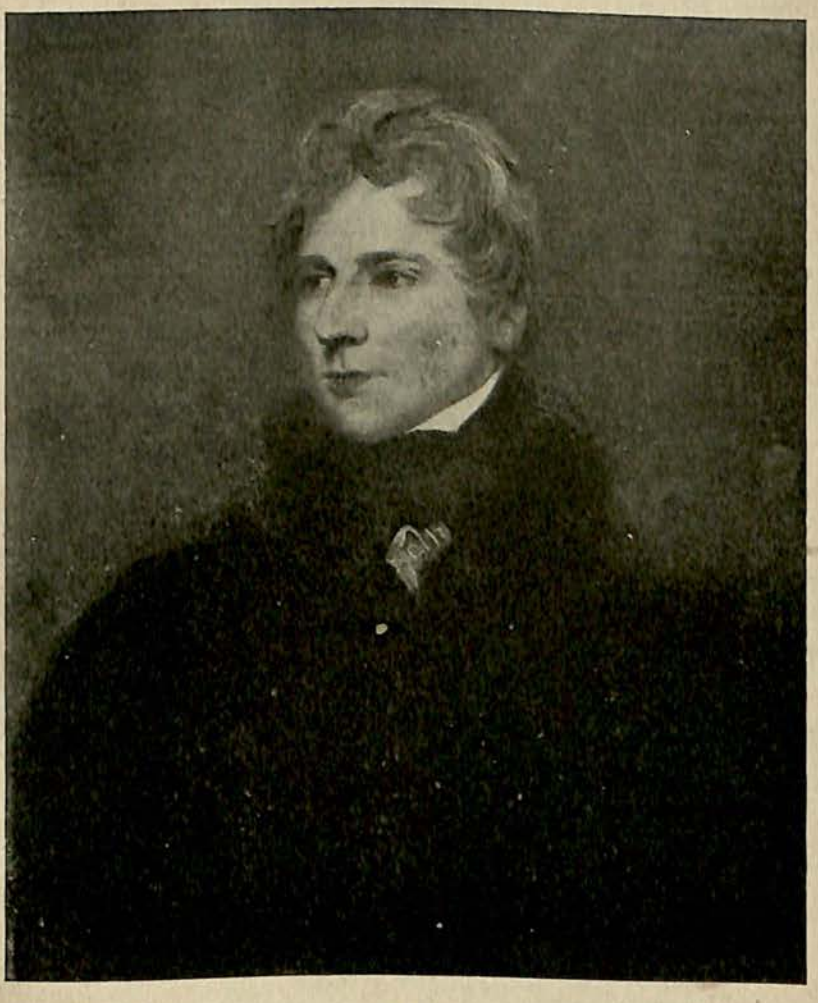
Barring Fleas, Bugs, & Lice this is really a very pleasant place, except that it is sometimes so hot as to be nearly insupportable, & the next day a cold piercing wind. The Society would I dare say be good, if there was any, then to be sure to make up for the want of Society, there is a very bad opera . . . .

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 2.] PALERMO, *13th May*, 1800.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to acquaint Your Lordship that I presented my Credential letters to Their Sicilian Majesties, by whom I was very graciously received on the 21st and 22nd Apl. The Duke de Berry is arrived at Naples and is expected here immediately. He will be admitted into this Service and is to have a Regiment; H.S.M. has settled a salary of 30,000 Ducats or about £6000 a year upon His Royal Highness. He has already declared his wish to espouse one of the Princesses but in this he meets with no sort of encouragement, and I am sorry to say that the Marquis de Circello is rather reprehended for the part he has taken with Monsieur in this business by having in some measure committed H.S.M.

It is a very singular thing that notwithstanding the supposed predilection of the Emperor of Russia for the Island of Malta, and though Russian Troops are there, I have seen some instructions sent to the Russian Minister here from St. Petersburg respecting the disposition to be made of the combined forces in the event of that Island and its Fortresses falling into their hands, by which it appears evident that an order must have been sent some time ago for the Russian Troops now at Corfu to go to Malta. Monsr. D'Italinsky (the Russian Minister here) and Admi. Ouschakow are both of opinion that the Dispatch conveying these orders must have miscarried and have in consequence written for fresh instructions to St. Petersburg. In the mean time I have not failed to hold such a language as is prescribed in yr. Lp's.



THE HON. BERKELEY THOMAS PAGET

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dispatch to me upon the subject. Such a reinforcement is much wanted at Malta, but it would scarce be possible to prevail upon Prince Wolkonsky to proceed thither without further orders.

Genl. Borordin who commands the Russians at Naples has arrived here.—I have the Honor, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 3.] *May* 13, 1800.

MY LORD,—My first interview with General Acton was on Sunday the 18th April.

I opened the conversation by informing him that the first object of my Instructions, which were not less pressing than important, was to endeavour to prevail upon His Sicilian Majesty to return to Naples, and I observed to him that this advice was perhaps as convincing a proof of the sincere Friendship existing on the part of His Majesty and His Government towards His Sicilian Majesty the King of Naples as any they had yet given. This I said was the outline of what was in the first instance to come before us, but that I had no sort of objection, on the contrary was desirous of entering as much into detail upon the subject as he might be disposed to, both with respect to the arrangements to be made, and with a view to remove, as far as was in my power, any difficulties which might arise in the consideration of the subject. I further begged the General to understand that, in obedience to Your Lordship's express orders, I had endeavoured to gain the best information with respect to the internal situation of the Kingdom upon which the safety of His Sicilian Majesty's return would undoubtedly in a great degree depend, before I had come to any resolution as to a proposition of this nature, and, after the most minute investigation and enquiry I had been able to afford the subject, I did not now hesitate to recommend in the strongest manner the measure I had just proposed.

General Acton said, in reply, that he was just as much aware of the wisdom, and even necessity, of His Sicilian Majesty's return to Naples as anybody could be, but that undoubtedly it was a subject which would require the

most mature consideration and deliberation. The principal reasons for which His Sicilian Majesty was at present averse to the measure, was the dislike he felt to return among a people who had conducted themselves with the most flagrant ingratitude towards him, the present unsettled state of the country, and the insecurity of Italy, as long as Genoa was in the hands of the French; that it would therefore at all events be His Sicilian Majesty's wish to see the result of the opening of the Campaign before he decided upon anything—that however the presence of the Russian Troops in the Capital would considerably tend to facilitate the object.

In reply to this I observed that the very existence of the facts in general upon which the King's disinclination to return were founded, formed in themselves unanswerable proofs that the presence alone of His Sicilian Majesty was calculated to remove them. In support of this, I stated that the corrupt system by which the Neapolitan people had of late been governed, had at length become insupportable to them, that everything was to be apprehended from the spirit of discontent which an ill-administered Government would not fail to produce, and that if the Kingdom of Naples was, from whatever other cause, still in danger, that danger could not but be increased by the absence of its Sovereign, for whose return the people had become nearly clamourous. In discussing upon this present situation of affairs at Naples General Acton not only admitted, but entered into the most violent invectives against nearly all the persons to whom the administration of the Government had been entrusted since the King's departure. In fact I found no sort of opposition on the part of the General to the statement of facts I had occasion to bring forward. He, on the contrary, rather anticipated me in many remarks which I had prepared to make upon the particular point. I reminded General Acton of the essential services already rendered to the King, of the readiness with which Lord Keith had repeatedly offered to send a Squadron to be at the disposal of His Sicilian Majesty for conveying Him to Naples, an offer which I was again authorized to make by His Lordship, but I begged Him also to observe that however disposed Lord Keith might be to afford every assistance

in His Power towards the attainment of this desirable object, even so far as to station a small Squadron for the protection and safety of His Sicilian Majesty at Naples, should it be found necessary, it would be in future impossible for him to detach any of His Majesty's Ships upon the same service to Palermo. In the course of this discussion, reference was very frequently made by the General to the Court of Vienna, and I was much surprised to find that he circuitously attempted, in criticising the conduct of that Court, to bring forward the darkness of its views as a plea that might be fairly made use of by His Sicilian Majesty not to return to Naples. He spoke with the most pointed asperity of Mr. de Thugut and his projects of aggrandisement, of which he discovered a considerable degree of jealousy and uneasiness.* In consequence however of the Information and assistance I received through the kindly communication of Lord Minto during my stay at Vienna, and a conversation I had on the subject with Mr. de Lehrbach,† I was enabled to articulate upon these topics in a manner which evidently afforded the General much satisfaction, and I took upon me to say that I firmly believed it to be the Emperor's wish to see His Sicilian Majesty again at Naples, and this sentiment has since been confirmed in a letter from the Empress to the Prince of Naples, in which that object is most strongly urged in the name of the Emperor. In pressing this business I addressed myself to General Acton as the person to whom I looked for the accomplishment of it. This produced an acknowledgement from him of the opposition he met with not only from the Queen, but from a set of men who surrounded the King, and whose advice he attributed to the most despicable and sordid motives. He spared no abuse of them, and he then proceeded to speak on the internal situation of the Royal Family. He told me that the disagreements and ill-humour between the King and Queen were at their highest pitch, and he confided to me a strange resolution which the King

* See the fears about the Legations, Piombino, and Ascoli, in despatch of May 13, letter of May 27, and despatch of July 4. The plan of Thugut was to extend the Austrian frontier to Rome, by getting the French conquests in Italy transferred to Austria, and absorbing the remaining principalities.

† Rival and successor of Thugut. See letter of Lord Minto, Sept. 26. Notorious for having brought about the catastrophe at Rastadt.

had in consequence of it just formed of abdicating his throne.

I will not detain Your Lordship by a more minute detail of what passed in this conference, I will merely add that I urged the proposal I had made in the best manner I could, and recommended as a preparatory step the passing of an amnesty, which however I suggested would have an incomparably better effect if carried and proclaimed by the King himself. But as this part of the question is in fact the most essential, as it brings them much nearer the point than a general Promise, so I found that the discussion of it produced a certain degree of ill-humour. The right of interfering in the internal affairs of the Government was talked of, the right also that His Sicilian Majesty had to divide His residence between the two Kingdoms. To the first of these, I begged the General distinctly to understand that I neither assumed to myself the right, nor had I the inclination, to interfere in the internal affairs of His Sicilian Majesty's Government, but that I certainly had the right to advise his immediate return to Naples as a measure which was intimately connected with the cause of all sovereigns concerned in the present contest; and with regard to the Second, I expressed my surprise that he should have recourse to such an argument.

I shall now proceed to inform Your Lordship of what passed in the next and in the subsequent conferences I have had with General Acton. In the first he acquainted me that he had not failed to make a faithful report of my communication to the King His Master, and that he had received His Sicilian Majesty's commands to acquaint me that he was thoroughly sensible of His Majesty's Friendship on the present as on all other occasions, and that he would take the object of my proposal with immediate consideration. General Acton proceeded to inform me that it was already in agitation to take such steps as must necessarily precede the King's departure from hence—that the Russian General commanding those troops now at Naples had been written to, desiring his presence at Palermo for the purpose of consulting with him—that General Wolkonsky commanding the Russian Troops at Corfu had likewise been written to, with a request to send

a reinforcement to Naples—and that an act of amnesty (Indulto) was preparing. In answer to this I expressed my satisfaction at finding this early disposition to act in a manner which I was convinced would be agreeable to His Majesty, but I at the same time pointed out the immense delay which must unavoidably be thrown in the way of the measure, upon the immediate action of which much good depended, if it was determined to await the arrival of fresh troops from Corfu, a circumstance in itself superfluous when the present force in Naples was acknowledged sufficient to preserve the most perfect tranquillity there, in which idea General Acton appeared to acquiesce.

It is now nearly three weeks since I have undertaken this business, in the course of which period I have had frequent interviews with General Acton. During the first three or four conversations I was contented to receive general assurances of His Sicilian Majesty's disposition to return. It then became an object to exact an unequivocal promise of it, which after some time and with much difficulty the General told me he had procured. The next step I urged was the time of departure, but in this I have not been so successful, though I have recommended most earnestly that not a moment should be lost, and I am sorry to say that our last interview was by no means a pleasant one, having produced a good deal of warmth on the part of the General. Being informed by him that His Sicilian Majesty wished to remain here till after the lying in of the hereditary Princess, which is not to take place till July or August, I certainly remarked to him that I thought it rather a singular reason for desiring to postpone the execution of a measure wherein His Sicilian Majesty's Dignity as well as Interest were with reason thought to be so deeply concerned. To this the General rather hastily replied that His Sicilian Majesty was a perfect judge how to act in support of His own Dignity and Interest. Here, My Lord, I feel it my duty to say that I have throughout the whole of these different discussions not only spoken with the utmost moderation, but have at several times given it clearly to be understood that the grounds upon which I was instructed to act were those of the purest Friendship and good wishes for His Sicilian Majesty's welfare. I therefore made this

appeal to the General who has since acknowledged himself to have been a little hasty on the occasion to which I allude. But to return to the subject, I proposed to General Acton either to remove the whole of the Royal Family as soon as possible to Naples, or to leave the Prince Hereditary here as Viceroy with a proper council, a measure which could not fail to be agreeable to the Sicilians who are in general, I believe from the most interested and selfish motives, extremely averse to the Departure of the King. But it is in fact impossible according to the General's own avowal to come at once to any wise and prudent determination. One plan interferes with another, and no one is brought to maturity. In the midst of all these speculations the Queen talks of a journey to Vienna, a project as often departed from as agreed upon.

With respect, My Lord, to the main subject of this Dispatch, it is not in my power to say more at this moment. From everything I could learn before I came here, and from all that has come to my knowledge since, I can without hesitation state my belief that previous to my arrival here His Sicilian Majesty had not only no thoughts of quitting Sicily for the present, but had on many occasions declared that no consideration should ever induce him ever to return to Naples. I now believe, nay have every right to feel confident that he will return. I entreat Your Lordship, however, not to suppose that I mean by this to take the smallest share of merit to myself. On the contrary, I ask your indulgence for not having fulfilled the principal object of my mission more satisfactorily and more completely.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 4.] PALERMO, *May* 13, 1800.

MY LORD,—I have, in a separate Dispatch given Your Lordship an account of the different Interviews I have had with General Acton, in which it has been my chief object to bring about His Sicilian Majesty's return to Naples, and I am so convinced that any change in the Neapolitan Government unaccompanied by the presence

of the King would be ineffectual towards the Restoration of Order and System, that I have only spoken hitherto in general terms upon that subject. When I look back to the different times I have been employed in His Majesty's Service, it is with pain I reflect that whenever it has been my duty to represent the state of things at the Court where I have resided, I have been under the necessity of drawing a very disagreeable picture, but in no instance has it been in my power to perform this task in so disadvantageous a manner as in the present.

In reviewing the present situation of the Kingdom, it presents in my mind a most alarming subject for reflection. Every department in the State, ecclesiastical, civil, and military, has assumed the most untoward appearance. Instead of Religion, there is an excess of bigotry, corruption has succeeded to Justice, and the fact of calling the assistance of Foreign Troops in itself proves what the state of the Army must be, and I will further venture to say that there is not a thinking man in the Country who would not gratuitously subscribe to this Statement. But this in itself would not dishearten me, if there was a possibility of laying a foundation upon which to act. It appears that a radical change of system is indispensably necessary to the political existence of this Country, but I feel it my duty to state to Your Lordship, even in this my early stage of residence here, that I am very far from being sanguine as to the practicability of operating such a change.

I am aware that in order to give anything like a true representation of the state of the internal politics of this Court, it will be necessary to lay down what will appear a string of inconsistencies.

The King, whose real character has from circumstances shown itself during and since the revolution more than at any former period, is timid and bigoted and, as is often the case in the same disposition, cruel and revengeful. He has no natural turn for, nor do his habits allow him to attend to business. He has no guide for his Conduct but that of private consideration, and to take the present Instance, whatever plea he may set forth for delaying his return to Naples, I am in my own mind convinced, and I should not utter these opinions but upon the surest

grounds, that His Sicilian Majesty labours under the strongest apprehensions for his own personal safety.

The Queen's character generally is too well known to Your Lordship to require any comment upon it from me. I have every reason to suppose that not from principles, but from pique, Her Sicilian Majesty has been very violent in opposing the King's return since my arrival. She had been taught to believe that I was sent here to Dictate and to use haughty language upon the Subject, at which idea I know from *undoubted authority* she was most violently irritated. General Acton indeed told me confidentially that upon his acquainting her of the result of our first interview, and of the moderate and friendly language I had used, instead of being satisfied Her Sicilian Majesty gave loose to her anger, and accused him of making a false report to her, and unable to get over this first impression she has, I also know, several times since expressed herself in very unfavourable terms of me. But I have reason to think that She has entirely lost her Influence, though she meddles as much as ever in business. She assists at every Council that is held. General Acton, on the contrary, frequently does not attend them. Her Sicilian Majesty is supposed to have a great partiality for the Prince Belmonte Pignatelli. The Prince Castelcicala, formerly Minister in England, is another leading man of the party, but neither of them have the smallest weight, and the latter is personally disagreeable to General Acton. The Country is governed solely by General Acton, and notwithstanding the opposition he meets with from the Queen and her party, whose unceasing activity do not fail to cramp him considerably in his operations, (and which indeed he rather seeks opportunities to represent, and consequently to urge the difficulties to which he is exposed,) I really believe that he sees the necessity of carrying His Sicilian Majesty back to Naples, and if he does not exert his Influence over the King upon this occasion, I can only attribute this seeming inconsistency to the fear of returning, for although the greatest pains have been taken, and not altogether unsuccessfully, to persuade the General that his presence at Naples is universally wished, the real fact I believe to be that he is extremely unpopular.

CAROLINE, QUEEN OF NAPLES.

The King and Queen of Naples are, as I have already mentioned, upon the worst terms. This is a fact known to everybody, but I have seen private letters from His Sicilian Majesty to General Acton, in which he sets forth the grief of his mind without reserve, and for the relief of which he dwells upon his desire to abdicate the Throne. I need scarcely say that little attention is paid to this wild project. His Sicilian Majesty considers the former intrigues of the Queen as the principal cause of the misfortunes that have befallen Him. He has made a solemn vow not to return with Her to Naples, on which account he is anxious that she should take this Journey to Vienna. This General Acton on the other hand opposes, both on account of the immense expenses attending the journey, and from an apprehension that the Queen will do more harm than good to the Interests of this Country by being at Vienna, and concerning the Journey itself, it is evident that a considerable degree of uneasiness prevails here with respect to the views of the Court of Vienna. I am therefore led to suppose that the principal object of Her Sicilian Majesty's journey is to endeavour to produce a change in the disposition of that Court which is thought to be extremely unfriendly, but I do not know how far her presence there will be liable to effect an alteration, for it is supposed here that Mr. de Thugut has never been particularly well disposed towards the Queen, and this leads me to mention a circumstance not wholly irrelevant to the subject. Within a very few days, it has been confidentially made known to me that Her Sicilian Majesty is exceedingly uneasy lest, through my means, the Court of Vienna should become acquainted with the weak and defenceless state of this Country, and in consequence be disposed to take advantage of it.

The Queen will be accompanied by three Princesses her daughters, for any or all of whom it is much wished to provide suitable marriages.

As to the state of Parties at Naples, it is certain that a very large majority of that community desire, from different motives, to see the King among them again. But there still doubtless exist people of a very different disposition, who are attached to the French Cause and who zealously serve it as far as their means enable them. To

these may be added not an inconsiderable number of persons whose parents have perished, and whose property has been confiscated to the State by the late revolution, and it is this description of Person the dread of whose revenge deters the King of Naples from at once deciding to return. I confess that I should not be surprised at any attempt that might be made against the lives of the King and Queen and two or three of the Ministers.

The Provinces are, in general, in a very unpleasant state of Insubordination, particularly in Calabria and the Abruzzi, where the people live in a state of licentiousness and anarchy which it will require time and considerable vigour to compress. The cause of this mischief may be attributed to Cardinal Ruffo,* who in his march through those Countries promised an exemption of taxes and other immunities for some years to all those who would advance in support of the Royal cause. The Russian troops being at Naples, if the disposable part of the Neapolitan Forces could be counted upon they would beyond a doubt be more than adequate to overrule this spirit, and to insure the tranquillity of the Country. But in their present state no reliance whatever can prudently be placed in them to act independently. An urgent request has therefore been sent from this Court to the Emperor of Russia soliciting an augmentation of Force from that Country. It is right to say that the new modelling of the Army is an operation to which the Government here have more seriously turned their thoughts than any other, but the work goes very slowly, and with the present officers who are in every point of view a most despicable set, it never could be completed. Another source of misery to the whole Nation which the revolution has in great measure produced, is the total discredit into which the paper Money has fallen. It now sells at Naples at 68 % discount, but I am happy to think that this calamity has also caught the attention of the Government, and that about 17 out of 24 million which is now in circulation will be immediately called in. In this deplorable state of things, nothing could be more truly congenial to my feelings than to find myself able to afford assistance by advice and Co-operation towards the

* Commander of the Neapolitan forces in Calabria, who had brought about the restoration of the King.

Restoration of a regular and well constituted Government. I have hitherto indeed not gone very deeply into the subject from a conviction that until the King of Naples returns, and will by his own presence and example protect the existing laws, an event which no pains shall be spared on my part to realize, and enable his Government to enact new ones, no good would be derived from it; and because I have discovered a degree of peevishness and jealousy, the effect of a sense of their own humiliating and dependent situation, whenever I have touched upon the subject of Reform, but which I trust may change into Cordiality and Confidence.

Your Lordship's very interesting instructions upon this subject are strongly imprinted upon my mind, but I reflect with the utmost diffidence upon my own abilities, and look forward with considerable uneasiness to carrying into effect the different important objects contained in them. I only intreat Your Lordship to be assured that no application or exertion shall be spared on my part.

The Corps Diplomatique here consists of the Austrian Ambassador, the Russian Minister, and myself. The former is Count Esterhazy, a perfect cypher, as matters of the most indifferent nature are scarcely entrusted to him, and he is personally disagreeable to General Acton. The Chevalier D'Italinsky, the Russian Minister, is a man of the soundest judgment and understanding and one of the most upright and honourable characters, much in the confidence of the General and singularly attached to England and to the Cause in which our Sovereigns are engaged.—I have, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[Private and Confidential.]

[Copy.] PALERMO, 13 *May*, 1800.

MY LORD,—Altho' I arrived here in the beginning of the second week in April, it was not in my power to present my Credential letters to their Sicilian Majesties till the 21st of the same Month. It is painful to me to state the reason of this to your Lordship, but I feel it my duty to do so. It seems that Sir William Hamilton was worked upon to consider his recall, and my almost imme-

diate appearance after it at Palermo, as extremely abrupt. My first wish therefore was to place the matter in such a point of view as would be most agreeable to Sir William's feelings, which I am confident I should have succeeded in had I not been counteracted. Finding at the end of two or three days that he said nothing about presenting his recredential letters, I mentioned the subject to him, and said that my only motive for doing so was (which I did in the most delicate way in my power) that I might be enabled to proceed upon the business with which I was charged. Sir William then said that he should keep his letters in his possession, till it was convenient to him to present them, that he could not be guided by what I said *en l'air*, that he did not wish to remain here as a private Individual after so many years' service, and that without I showed him my Instructions & that they contained any thing which obliged him to present his letters of recall immediately, it was his Intention not to do so till the day before his departure, for which he was only waiting for the Foudroyant from Malta which was to convey him there. As to shewing Sir William my Instructions, it was a thing which I decided at once within myself not to do, for he certainly would have been obliged to communicate them to Lady Hamilton, who would have conveyed them the next moment to the Queen. I therefore without taking any further notice of the business remained quietly till the arrival of the Foudroyant, & the departure of Sir William, which was about ten days afterwards. But I must acquaint your Lordship that General Acton with the utmost readiness & civility received me as Minister during the whole of the Interval from the day Sir W^{m} presented me to him, which was about six days after my arrival at Palermo.

Your Lordship did me the honor to talk so confidentially both about persons & things previous to my departure, & allowed me to do the same, that I feel it incumbent upon me to act in the same way now. It is not to be told the pains that were taken by Lady Hamilton to set the King and Queen & the whole Court against me, even before I arrived. I was represented as a Jacobin and coxcomb, a person sent to bully and to carry them *bon gré mal gré* back to Naples, & it

is enough to know the character of people here to be sure that all this Jargon had its effect. I must indeed except Gen[l] Acton *in toto*. But her Ladyship's language in general has been extremely indiscreet, representing Sir William as an ill-used man, &c. &c. She has however persuaded herself and others that I am only sent here for an interval, & that Sir William will resume his situation at Naples next winter. On the other hand Sir William says that nothing shall induce him to accept it again unless a sort of second Minister is sent under him to do the business & represent.

I am sorry to say that Lord Nelson has given more or less into all this nonsense. His Lordship's health is I fear sadly impaired, & I am assured that his fortune is fallen into the same state in consequence of great losses which both His Lordship & Lady Hamilton have sustained at Faro & other Games of Hazard. They are expected back from Malta every day, & are then I understand to proceed by Sea to England.

I really believe that there is no other object in the Queen's journey to Vienna than that which I have stated in the Dispatch. She will not venture to act contrary to Gen[l] Acton's wishes, & I am almost sure that he will not consent to her doing any thing that would not be perfectly agreable to England.

I have heard a good deal lately about Gen[l] Acton's retiring to England. At length he told me confidentially the other day that such was his Intention. I immediately took upon me to endeavour to dissuade him from it. I told him that under the present difficult circumstances of the Country, I was sure that it was wished in England that he should at least for the present remain where he is. I could not get him to promise me that he would do so, but I think I may venture to say that he will not go away so soon as he says. There is one person who knows him very intimately, & who assures me that he has no such intention, & that it is to answer his own purposes with the King & Queen that he declares this to be his resolution, but still he talked of it in such a way to me that I ought hardly to doubt of the truth of what he said. He appears to me to be thoroughly disgusted with his situation. The state of this country is in fact melan-

choly, & tho' I do not think that much Improvement will be made in it under him, yet on the other hand I am convinced that bad would become worse if it were governed by any Men or set of Men that I know of here at present. I therefore really think that his remaining here is a most desirable object. He is very much attached to England, & has more means of doing good, with a better disposition to act according to those means, than anybody I know in this Country. Altho' we quarrel a little now & then, we are nevertheless upon the best terms possible, & I know from facts that I enjoy his confidence in some measure; for these reasons I should be disposed to do anything in my power to prevail upon him to remain here, & in so doing I hope that I should meet with your Lordship's approbation. I know that his Idea is in Case of going to England, to have credential letters with him, but as there appears to me to be a great degree of analogy between General Acton's & Count Rumford's* situations, I should feel it my duty not to allow the former to leave this Country with the idea of appearing in England in a public character from this Court.

They are certainly very uneasy here about the Court of Vienna. It seems that the Austrians have entered the Principality of Piombino, which is a detached State but belonging to the Crown of Naples, a circumstance which does not fail to increase their alarms. It seems also that an Austrian General (whose name is I think [*omitted*]) arrived at Naples a short time since under another name & in a sort of disguise, & upon being recognised the said General disappeared; it is likewise supposed that there are two Austrian officers in disguise here, after whom the strictest search is making. These circumstances give rise to unpleasant surmises here. I do all in my power to quiet them.

Your Lordship will no doubt remark that I have dwelt a great deal upon the wretched state of this Country (I of course include the Neapolitan dominions particularly) the more information I gain upon the subject and the more I reflect upon it, the more despondent I feel. I really don't know whether any good is to be done with the present generation, so corrupt & so insensible to all

* See correspondence from Munich, Oct. 10, 1798.

principles of honor & morality do I think it. A total reformation upon the largest & most comprehensive scale ought to take place. The Code of Laws, which is not in itself a bad one, but which from perversion is become execrable, ought to be revised, but there is not a Man in the Kingdom who combines sufficient Honesty & Talents to be equal to the undertaking. Seminaries of all sorts ought to be instituted, but the same obstacles present themselves. The Military, to whom in these times & in these Countries the security of the whole in great measure depends, is in a deplorable state. As to Religion, I do not pretend to a competency of giving an opinion upon the nature of the changes necessary to correct this most essential of all Christian Establishments, but it must strike the observation of the most common understanding that this branch of Society in this Country calls for reform.

Leaving therefore this latter subject to itself as a delicate Subject for a Protestant to touch upon, I am with respect to the former of opinion that nothing useful or good can be effected but by the introduction & direct interference of Foreigners.

I forward by this opportunity a letter to Mr. Dundas from Gen[l] Graham by which everything interesting from Malta will of course be learnt. The General in his letters to me seems to expect a Sortie, but I cannot imagine that the French will make a sortie now when at a time the Garrison was much stronger, & when our works were only manned by Maltese peasants, they never attempted one. I have however obtained H.S.M.[s] consent to send the 3 Companies of British now at Messina to Malta, which will be an acceptable reinforcement. I wish I could say more exactly when we are to return to Naples, I scarcely think before July. I can assure your Lordship that this has been a very difficult matter to manage & it will still give a good deal of trouble & require constant attention, nothing I find but fair language will do. I must mention rather a singular thing to your Lordship. I was conversing upon the subject the day before yesterday with Gen[l] Acton. I remarked to him the disastrous situation in which the King of Naples would find himself if the French should

succeed in landing 8 or 10,000 men in Sicily, 4 for instance here & 4 at Syracuse, which would absolutely cut off all retreat. This of course he admitted, but it is rather singular that an English officer (Col. Callander) who arrived here yesterday, having left L^d^ Keith off Genoa the 4th Inst., submitted word for word the same remark to me. I learnt from him also that there are from 10 to 15,000 Italian Malecontents on the coasts of France ready to be employed on this service if it should be determined upon. If therefore upon Examination and within Enquiry this fact turned out to be authentic, Your Lordship would hear of the King being at Naples within the shortest possible space of time.

I fear that your Lordship will think the interval from the time of my writing to the Office from Naples to the present extremely long, but I have for some time past been in daily expectation of having it in my power to send off a servant with what I have now the honor of communicating, and in not having done so sooner I have been entirely guided by circumstances. Nothing can be more irregular and uncertain than the arrival and conveyance of the Post from this place, for which reason it is extremely discouraging to send anything at all interesting by it. I shall be extremely anxious for your Lordship's answer, & will only now humbly apologise for all the trouble I am occasioning your Lordship for the continuation of whose Indulgence and Favor I respectfully hope.—I have the honor to be, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[Private.] CLEVELAND ROW, *May* 19, 1800.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have received your private Ltr. of the 12th March and by this conveyance can only say that the plan * there mentioned would, under the circumstances that then existed, have been highly useful. Subsequent events have probably rendered it much less practicable, but if you should see any opening for it, its execution might still be highly advantageous to the common cause: and Ld K. would I doubt not readily co-operate in it.—Ever my dear Sir, &c., (Signed) G.

* For gaining over General Kleber.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

OFF GENOA, *May 19th*, 1800.

MY DEAR PAGET,—Here we are doing nothing on shore whatever, the Gen[l] St. Julian made a Capitulation at Savona with out my Knowledge A little like Ancona, but I talked in a Style to His Brother who is come here as A *Commissioner* from *Court* to direct the Generals as has made him tell twenty Storys and make most Humble concession send for the treaty for my approval of Course I am too well inclined to the Gen[l] interest to be angry, Melas left troops at the Var and is gone to Piedemont to meet Berthier who is in March by Mont Cenis In Genoa things is very bad and if I could get *Men* to be honest it must yield in a day or two but alas this is not the Age of Honest men I hope you find it otherwise with the Women The inhabitants of Genoa Die by Scores of hunger the Mob went to Massena to desire he would Capitulate the first time he gave each a penny the second time he fired upon (them), the last Bombardment occasioned an insurection and since then Guns are placed in all the Streets, and many have been hanged for mentioning their distress, the Weather has been bad which has prevented my Bombbardment for some Nights past but I am all ready to embrace the first favourable moment, the 5th, 17th, 33[d], 35, 40, 2 Batt[ns] each are arrived at Mahon in 24 days, Sir Chas Stuart is not yet come, Good God what a pity these Austrians were not more Active, had Genoa fallen when it ought we might have been at Grennoble if not Lyons ere now with eighty Battalions and not ten thousand men in the Way, Of Courage they have plenty but neither sense nor Activity I think I could surprize you if we had a Chat, By the Way there is a Mr. Callender a Man of family and Estate one of my Constituants, He asked me for a letter to Hamilton which I could not refuse saying He was *Born* a gentleman and had been reckoned a good officer, but that was all I meant and I worn you to be as Civil as possible *preserving a Cautious Distance* perhaps you know his reputation better than I do—I have a letter from the Prince in very good Spirits Pray tell the King how much

reason I have to be pleased with all His officers I hope His M^{y} will find them in better order when they return than when they came here. You will see by the papers the D. of York has had a sad fall,* Lord St Vincent is in Command of the Fleet.—I am My Dear friend Ever Yours, &c., (Signed) KEITH.

the french have only to take Le Pont de Var—Monacco is in the Hands of the Austrians.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

OFF GENOA, *May 22nd*, 1800.

DEAR PAGET,—Reports prevail that there is an intention to send the Spanish Ships now in Palermo to sea† I beg you will get the best information you can and send Notice to Malta, Minorca and to me if I could tell you where *that* is to be I am hard run for Ships but I will try to intercept them—I am faithfully yours, &c.,

(Signed) KEITH.

I am sorry to tell you Berthier is at Monte Genare with a considerable army and we are in *Statò Qua* leaving the Blockade to me.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

OFF GENOA, *May 26th*, 1800.

DEAR PAGET,—I got your letter yesterday Lord W. Bentink was with me at the moment I thank you much and shall try to mend my hand, but I doubt being able to succeed, You talk of Ships every thing depends on Genoa but give me notice and I will be with you or send the best I can You may assure the Court of my inclination to support its Dignity Of Genoa all I can say is the people are Dying every moment the troops have little to eat the Austrians are at the Var but on the Other Hand Bentink brings Accounts of the Worst Sort‡ from

* By the capitulation of Alkmaar, Oct. 18, 1799, the Duke of York evacuated the Low Countries, leaving General Brune in full possession of Holland.

† Spain had been in alliance with France since 1795. It was declared that England being the sole power which had done injury to Spain, against her only was Spain bound to make common *offensive* cause with France.

‡ Moreau and Lecourbe were victorious on the Rhine and Upper Danube.

the Rhine 18, 19 & 20th the Austrians were beaten lost 7000 men and *all* their Magazines on the 21st they had given the french a Check, Kray at Ulm in force, Bounaparte or Berthier is in Piedemont but with What force is uncertain, Melas is gone to Turin but I fear his Numbers are small if the french beat him of Course they Army will quit this indeed they may as well for they have done nothing but let me starve Savona—20,000 men were coming here 6000 are really come Sir C. Stewart resigns here are the troops neither General nor instructions are to be found thus we make War Three day before Lord W Bentink left London Sir R Abercrombie had been sent for—my latest letters are 26th April from Lord Spencer, The Prince ill again so says the Duke of Clarence I have a letter from the Prince is good Spirrits and in a Strong Hand Writing farewel may God bless you. (Signed) KEITH.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[No. 1.] VIENNA, *27th May*, 1800.

The Campaign has been uniformly successful in Italy. A very masterly plan has been executed with great spirit, activity, and courage, and is on the point I trust of being crown'd with the capture of Genoa & the extinction of Massena's army, which is all that remains of the Italian war since the remainder of the French army of Italy has been driven fairly across the Var. Melas after Nice was in his possession determined to draw a considerable part of his troops, especially cavalry, to Turin, partly for the greater facility of subsistence, & partly with a view of meeting Berthier who was reported to be approaching Italy with about 10 or 15,000 men by the way of Switzerland. Melas was under no uneasiness at this attempt to relieve Genoa; & can oppose a superior force to Berthier without diminishing that which invests Genoa. We have rec[d] the accounts of the surrender of Savona this day, & if the Austrians are not much deceived Genoa must in all probability be already in their possession. It is to this event that we are looking with impatience for the means of restoring that superiority in Germany which the Austrians have lost for some weeks in that quarter. The

campaign open'd there with an incursion of the enemy by Kehl & Brissac. This first movement seems to have been a feint, for they soon retir'd without attempting anything material, but they pass'd at the same moment higher up between Schaffhausen & Stein; & there Mr. Wickham shall take the story up. . . . .

By the latest accounts things continued on the same footing, that is to say, the two armies almost in presence near Ulm. On the 19th the French pass'd in force to the left bank of the Danube & seem'd to indicate an intention of bringing on a general battle. But on Kray's making disposition accordingly, they judged it expedient to decline the action & to repass the river. However in this situation a battle seems every hour probable, & I have every reason to think it must be fought in circumstances advantageous to the Austrians. In the meanwhile it is with real comfort & satisfaction that I can assure you of the steadiness of this court, & I cannot too much commend the tone of firmness & courage which was display'd in the moment of these reverses, notwithstanding the advantage which the Peace faction was desirous to take of them. I see no ground for apprehending a weak resolution at Vienna except that which, tho' it will come immediately from the North, may be consider'd as originating in a great degree in Italy. I mean the possibility of Russian indisposition * towards Austria being push'd so far as to make the latter apprehend actual hostility either during the war, or in the period of weakness which immediately succeeds it. This apprehension if it became serious would, I fear, drive the Emperor into a premature peace with France, in which the interests of Italy would be the last object he would attend to. A principal cause of the irritation which the Emperor perhaps discovers towards several of the Italian powers, is an opinion that the indisposition of the Emperor of Russia has been very much fomented by the complaints of those powers.† I do not know that this has been the case, but from the

* After the recall of Suvarow from Italy and disastrous campaign of 1799, Russia withdrew from the alliance in Oct. 1799, charging the Austrians, on very sufficient grounds, with bad faith.

† The policy of Austria to get possession of Italy as far as the Neapolitan frontier, made her view with great jealousy the protection extended by Russia to the Italian princes.

nature of the thing I think it likely enough to have been so. This at all events is the opinion entertain'd here. As I have just said such complaints might be natural enough; but I feel anxious to impress on the minds of all those who are connected with the affairs & interests of Italy, the impolicy of widening the breach, or promoting a rupture between the two Imperial Courts. Italy, like the rest of the world, depends on the success of this war. That success would be ensured by the Union of the Allies, & may be frustrated by their alienation from each other. A Peace between the Emperor & France, as I have reason to know, would be wholly at the expense of Italy. If the influence of Russia is really desired for the protection of the Italian Princes, that influence can be rendered considerable only by establishing a good understanding between the two Emperors, & must be rendered null by their rupture. On what ground can the Emp[r] of Russia demand sacrifices from the Emperor while he refuses to contribute in any degree to the changes & hazards of the war, & professes an open & violent enmity to the Emperor. It is the clear interest of all those states who would avail themselves of the good disposition of Russia for their protection, to mediate in the differences between the Emperors, & to reconcile them as speedily & as effectually as possible. This leads me to mention a good deal of jealousy which I have observed here concerning the mission of the Prince de Belmonte to Petersburg, as if it might be intended to encourage the jealousies already conceived there ag[t] the Emperor of Germany. And if a more useful & political turn can be given to that Mission I cannot help thinking that a service will be render'd to Naples as well as to the rest of Italy. If I were to hazard an advice, in that pure affection & solicitude for the Court of Naples which I most sincerely assure you, & them, is by no means diminish'd in my breast, it would be to conciliate if possible the Emperor of Germany rather than rely exclusively on the Emperor of Russia. The first by his position on the map can evidently do much more to serve or hurt them than the other. They will say it is impossible, because the views of Austria are inconsistent with their safety. I can only say that this is not yet known to me. The Emperor will I believe keep the

Three Legations,* but he disclaims in the strongest manner any further views on the papal territory, or any that would bring him nearer to Naples. The Emperor feels much dissatisfaction at the King of Naples keeping his troops at Rome under the idea of restraining him from the acquisition of the three Legations; & I am seriously alarm'd lest some violent resolution should be taken if this sort of contest should continue; as I am uneasy concerning the consequences of so unequal a contest, But I may venture to say that you may depend on the Emperor's having no views himself either on Rome or any other part of its territory, still less on Naples. I do not speak on this point without authority. Another ill effect of the rupture with Russia has been the diminution of the power of England to interpose in behalf of the smaller states; for the retreat of Russia from the war makes it the more indispensable to keep Austria up to it, & therefore the more difficult to contend with her on any point whatever. If the safety of all depends now solely on the exertions of Austria against France, that exertion must be purchased by some sacrifices & by some inducements or other, & so far as I am acquainted with her views, tho' there may be something to regret, I must sincerely say there is nothing to alarm other nations, & certainly nothing at all comparable to the danger that must result from establishing the French Republick.—Believe me ever, my Dear Sir, most sincerely & affectionately yours,

MINTO.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

GENOA, *June 5th*, 1800.

DEAR PAGET,—I congratulate you on the Capture of Genoa † you will guess our situation was not good in the Milanese or they would not have got such terms I had a hard Job of it to bring things about for we were ordered to Raise the Blockade and I tryed one day our troops had Actually begun their March before the Capitulation

* The northern part of the Papal States formed the "Legations"—Romagna, Ferrara, and Bologna. They were captured by the Allies in Suvaroff's campaign of 1799.

† Masséna surrendered June 5, with all the honours of war, having held Melas while Bonaparte made his astonishing march across the Alps.

was signed, Massena and I had a hard set too he is the greatest Brute in Christendom—I am in hourly expectation of Sir R : Abercromby * who comes with Sir R Richerten to Minorca.—farewel I am Yours &c

(Signed) KEITH.

Tuscany is ordered to be evacuated Leghorn also never was such a Genl Terror I treat it as yet lightly but it is no time for a Queen to be making Visits and retarding public service †

Ott Marched this morning with 12,000 men for Alexàndria calling me the Saviour of Italy and the Austrian Army in a letter

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

12th June, GENOA, 1800.

MY DEAR PAGET,—Send the enclosed instantly it is of import to Malta to give you any Account of Italy is hardly possible if I had time and information ‡

Yesterday the Court of Turin and Jackson§ came here flying

The Pope writes for a Ship The Senate of Florence || does the like, Penrose also and the factory at Leghorn wants *six* the King of Sardinia writes his Island is attacked He wants a Squadron all my ships are gone with the french I have not one left nor can I learn any thing of Lord Nilson

The french are investing Savona and all are alarmed to a Childish degree

On the 9th Ott was worsted at Veghera but is Joined by Melas at Tortona who writes me Italy depends on a Battle which I shall fight tomorrow If I fail the Army depends on your friendship for its all

* Abercromby, a general of the highest character and humanity, had previously commanded in Ireland, his withdrawal from which led to the cruelties of the soldiery which hurried on the rebellion.

† Schönbrunn was being prepared at Vienna for the reception of the Queen of Naples.

‡ Bonaparte reached Milan June 2, and his troops, on June 6, began their march to the Po to enter on the startling campaign which closed at Marengo on the 14th. The battle of Montebello was on the 9th. Lord Keith's letter following on the last well represents the suddenness of the shock.

§ Minister at Turin.

|| France had declared war on the Grand Duke of Tuscany (who was of the Austrian House) after the failure of the Rastadt negotiations.

I have sent to Mahon to beg men of Fox* provided Abercromby is not arrived if he is they will certainly come because I have *his* orders—this instant the enlosed is come by an officer I hope it is true—This Garrison consisted of 14,000 men combatants 2,000 of the other Class, the Hospitals are filled of Sick—the fag makes me unwell and the weather is bad I believe I shall give up to some stronger man God bless you

(Signed) KEITH.

Say everything to the Court from me which I ought to say and if you can read the above tell it to Graham for I have not a Moment to write him I have not yet been on shore

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord KEITH.

PALERMO, 13 *June*, 1800.

MY DEAR LORD,—I think it my duty to send off a vessel from hence in order to acquaint you that the three Spanish Men of War in this Harbour bent their sails in the course of last night. Whether this is only a *faire semblant*, or whether it is really their intention to go to Sea, is more than I take upon myself to decide. I have spoken to General Acton to endeavour to keep them here some time longer, but whether he will succeed or not is more than I can answer for. I am told that they are extremely ill manned, and in every other respect quite unfit to go to sea, which will make them an easy prey to whomsoever is fortunate enough to fall in with them.

I shall send off the above intelligence to Malta, in case a ship or two can be spared from thence.

I protest I forget whether I told you that His Sicilian Majesty has been pleased to allow the Corps of Albanians under the command of M. G^l Villettes to come to Brindisi, which I immediately made that officer acquainted with.

The King of Naples sets out this day on a tour into the Interior of the Country, I cannot send you any satisfactory intelligence with respect to His Return to Naples. This loss of time will I fear be loss of everything else, it is afflicting and heartrending.—Ever, my dear good Lord, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

* General Fox, brother of Charles James Fox.

Now would have been the moment to have had a Sloop, Brig, Cutter or anything with me here, to have sent to you upon the above business.

From H.R.H. *the* PRINCE OF WALES *to the* Hon. ARTHUR PAGET.

CARLTON HOUSE, *June* 16, 1800.

MY EVER DEAREST ARTHUR,—Morand is this instant come here & tells me he is to get off again To-morrow, though my carriage is at the door to take me out of Town, still I could not think of letting him depart without sending you a few Lines to recall myself to your recollection. How could you my dearest Friend think I either had forgotten you, or that my silence was owing to neglect? indeed Arthur You are ever present to my heart & to my mind, & I wrote to you by the only safe mode of conveyance that occurred to me, which was by Mr. Hayter, & which Letter I trust long before this you must have receiv'd. Your *dear Friend* I have followed your directions & wishes about I trust in such a manner as will prove to you my never ceasing friendship both for you & Her. Her conduct during the whole of this long Winter has been most exemplary towards You, & though wretched at your absence, still she has almost entirely confin'd herself to her own Home, where I really believe the only pleasurable moments she pass'd were those when I could call upon Her, & when the minutes rolled away without being able to count them conversing about you, and adjusting her plans of joining you upon the Continent & which I hope now you will not delay. I can not speak highly enough either of her conduct or of her affection, love, & enthusiasm about you, in short it surpasses all belief, & I trust you will both shortly be completely happy, for I am certain you both richly deserve it. As she writes by Morand I shall say no more about Her, as she will herself tell you that I have not been unmindful, my dearest Arthur, either of you or of your concerns. My health, my friend, I am sure you will be happy to learn is much re-established & gets more & more so as my mind becomes more composed, & as beams of returning

happiness & comfort begin once again to shine upon me. Would you were here to share it with me, for believe me there is not a dinner nor a party, that I do not miss you & feel a drawback that always damps every pleasure from your absence and from your not being a Partaker of it with me. As to our old friends Chig, Bathurst, etc. we dine perpetually together, and never miss drinking your health repeatedly each time in a bumper, praying that you may soon be here again among us all who love you so affectionately. I have no news to tell you from hence, and indeed the hurry I am in at the present moment would prevent if I had from prolonging my epistle to greater extent, except merely to assure you of what I am confident you are already thoroughly persuaded of, that I am through life, my dearest Arthur, most steady and most affectionate Friend, GEORGE.

P.S.—Pray write frequently be it but a line.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

20th June, GENOA, 1800.

I thank you my Dear Paget for your letter by the Foudroyant, I am surprized at what you tell me because it is wished that Sir W * may be sent back to Naples but I am sorry it is unpleasant to your feelings, mine for the moment are most deplorable the Convention of the 14th † I shall not soon forget nor that there are 14,000 men on Minorca which cannot be used by reason there is no General, and Fox ‡ has not Nerves to send a man on I had determined to defend Genoa for ourselves but alas it is too late, § I hope Malta will be seriously undertaken the instant Abercrombie arives, I must go to Leghorn to Land the Wretched Fugitives and to be Bored by Lord Nelson for permission to take the Queen to Palermo, and Princes and Princesses to all parts of the Globe to every request I have said my Duty to the Nation forbids it,

* Sir William Hamilton.

† The Convention of Alexandria, June 15, followed the battle of Marengo on the 14th: the strong places of N. Italy were ceded to France, and the Austrians were restricted to the line of the Adige.

‡ See letter from Genoa of June 12.

§ Masséna re-entered Genoa June 19, having fulfilled his promise: "Before fifteen days I shall be here again at your head."

God knows it is true I am called into Egypt because I have no Officer to send to meet the Captain Pacha Graham writes home Malta is lost if L[d] K. does not come, and I called upon to Portugall to all is impossible *My* friend is as you describe him He sat on the Room when I wrote Hamilton my Hint which was Broad went by the *Naples* Post, If I *had* a Sloop it would not answer to keep a fixture in Your Bay; How fortunate has the King been twice in one day to escape being shot the Play House man is surely Mad & I hope the other I trust was accident farewel my dear Paget I am very Sincerely Your Sincere friend and Servant KEITH.

I wish you would tell me how the Pulse of the Russians beats I hardly know how to write them there are so many reports from Varrious quarters.

From Mr. WYNDHAM *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

FLORENCE, 24 *June*, 1800.

MY DEAR SIR,—In case you have not received the articles of the late shamefull Armistice, I have the honor to enclose it.

You are happy at this time in being further off from the bad news, and hear it later, but as it comes to my lot to let you know it, I only beg you will not wish me d——d for being the bearer of it.

The french carry Victory alas every where, they are at Augsburgh, and Munich & *I believe* at Ratisbon, at Memingen Storhach and I fear at Kempten. Prince Reuss has been cut off and they threaten the Tyroll, on the other hand they threaten Vienna. What a kettle of fish!

Officers & men are disgusted disheartened & wont fight, nothing can rally them, and the Emperor must take the peace Buonaparte will be so good as to grant him. Shocking Business!

I believe Bonaparte wishes peace & that is our only hopes, but we shall be left in the lurch.

I set off in a day or two for Vienna. I only wait to see Mr. Jackson a fugitive from Turin first and then from Genoa, who is arrived at Leghorn.

L[d] Keith carries off all the cannon &c. he can from Genoa. What a fury he must be in, and with what just reason.

I shall write you again for Vienna. I fear however no better news.—Adieu, dear Sir, &c.,

(Signed) WYNDHAM.

From Mr. LOCK* *to the* Hon A. PAGET.

NAPLES, *Monday Morning*, 30 *June*, 1800.

DEAR SIR,—The post of yesterday brought us some farther particulars respecting the disastrous condition of the Austrian arms.

The French under Berthier after being worsted by Melas on the 14[th] near Tortona, attacked the Austrians unexpectedly next morning before daybreak, & defeated them with great loss, among the prisoners are said to be Melas and his *Etât Major*. The misfortune is ascribed in great measure to the treachery or cowardice of a Brigade of 3000 Cavalry commanded by General Nobile, which opened the way to the Enemy by falling back upon the Infantry & throwing it into disorder. The convention prescribes Mantua, the Mincio and Ferrara as the boundaries of the territory to be possessed by the Austrians. It is said that Melas upon his parole, is himself the bearer of these terms, & carries the proposal of an Armistice for two months to Vienna, which if rejected Hostilities are to recommence in 10 days from the return of the Courier. Tuscany is alone included in this armistice, which comprises neither the *Neapolitan* or Roman territory or the Bolognese. Lucia is already possessed by six hundred French Grenadiers.

I hear that Lord Keith has had a warm altercation with the Austrians in Genoa, who were upon the point of coming to a rupture with him; his L[p]. perhaps disputed their right to barter a place taken in the name of the Allies. He has drawn 400 Vessels out of the Port. The Commandant of Tortona is said to have refused to evacuate the place without an order from the Emperor.

* Consul at Naples.

Several letters affirm that the French in Germany have penetrated 25 miles beyond Linz that they advanced 135 miles in five days.

From General ACTON *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

BRECKE DI FATRO, *Thursday, 1st July,* 1800.

SIR,—I enclose to you the most disagreable news possible which an officer in three Days from Naples brings me. You will see that a Battle has taken place by *Tortona*, a most bloody one, but the Austrians having been beaten—a most surprising Truce has taken place, this measure by all our people is mentioned Scandalous and opprobrious—all the Strong Places are put in the hands of the French: which on the 24th were to be masters of all *Piemont*, all the *Genevese*, and of all the *Milanese* States. Melas retires by Mantua—all Italy therefore is opened. But a Vessell is at Sea and dispatched to this Court by our Queen at leghorn. The officer arrived mentions that this Truce has however a better explanation as it is made to be in use only from ten days, to ten days and so on till the arrival of the answers from Vienna *where another Truce presently has been made but with better terms.*

You see of what nature is the consolation brought by this Second advice. The corvette Aurora is to bring us those news from leghorn, She had sailed from that Place 6 days ago, our boat has been three days from Naples. Lord Keith is most likely at leghorn by this time. You will know best by the enclosed. I am sorry to see that our poor Circello by the letters of the 14th May had advised us of the Suspicion in London that the Court of Vienna was managing *her Peace*, and *an armistice—which would bring the court of London necessarily to make a sudden peace likewise.* This last cannot take room certainly but by a conviction that without a Continental Power as Austria or Russia acting efficaciously the war cannot be kept against France by England alone; and certainly none of the allyes in this position can have such an expectation. The news of our Queen shall be had by the named "Aurora" every moment. We are in

a Strange condition, but must not Despair. I send the officer to you the soonest possible and have the honor to be, &c., (Signed) J. ACTON.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord KEITH.

PALERMO, *July* 1, 1800.

MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . . With respect to the affairs of Malta, we are in sad want of some arrangements. The Russians have got it in their head that Graham does not like their coming there. I have accordingly written Officially to him to say that the King approves of the views of the Emperor of Russia with regard to the Island of Malta, & consequently that he would do right to conform to the wishes of the Russian Commander. I think it right to inclose you copies of an Official Letter from the Russian Minister to me, with my answer, which is written in the exact sense of my Instructions on that head. You probably know that the Principal Cause of the Emperor of Russia's quarrelling with us * is the Conduct of Sir Sydney Smith in that ill judged business with Kleber, and as Government had some time ago certainly made up their minds to give Malta up to Russia, I do not imagine that it can be our Interest to widen the breach by opposing the Emperor Paul's views on that Island. This has been the rule of my Conduct on all occasions which have presented themselves.—I remain, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Chevalier ITALINSKI.

À PALERME, *ce* 1 *Juillet*, 1800.

MONSIEUR LE CHEVALIER,—La lettre que V.E. a bien voulu m'adresser en date d'hier m'est très bien parvenue.

Après les conversations frequentes que nous avons eues relativement à la disposition des troupes, au cas que Malte venoit à tomber au pouvoir des Forces combinées, c'est avec peine que j'apprens de vous Monsieur que M^r^ L'Amiral Ouschakow temoigne de l'Inquiétude à ce sujet.

Sans examiner les motifs qui paroissent avoir donné lieu à cette inquiétude, je n'hesite pas à repondre à V. Ex. que

* See Lord Grenville's despatch, Oct. 17.

c'est le désir du Gouvernement Britannique de voir remplir avec la plus scrupuleuse exactitude tout ce qui a été arrêté entre nos deux Cours relativement à l'Isle de Malte, & c'est dans l'attente que Mr L'Amiral Ouschakow voudrait se conformer à ce même principe que j'oserois vous assurer Monsieur que loin de trouver opposition de la part des troupes du Roi mon Maitre, il pourra sans obstacle accomplir la Volonté de Son Souverain.—J'ai l'honneur d'être (Signé) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 8.] [Confidential.] 4 *July*, 1800.

MY LORD,—Provided it should appear to be the design of the French to attack the Kingdom of Naples it is the Intention of this Court to endeavour thro' the medium of the Court of Vienna to gain time by negotiation, & to make an immediate request of the Emperor of Russia to send a body of 30,000 men to be taken into the pay of H.S.M., but it is meant that this circumstance should on no account be known at Vienna, and it is hoped that the above Force may arrive here in the course of about three months from the time the demand will be made. From the marked interest which the Em. of Russia has uniformly manifested towards the King of Naples it is probable that the above request may be complied with.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[Private.] DROPMORE, *July* 4, 1800.

MY DEAR SIR,—In addition to my public dispatches I have to thank you for your private letter of the 13th May. I much regret that Sir William Hamilton should have been induced to create any delay in your official reception. You certainly judged quite right under the peculiar circumstances, especially of the persons by whom he is surrounded, in not communicating to him your instructions, which he indeed ought to have known was a proposal wholly irregular and unjustifiable.

Sir W. is not yet arrived here, but when he does come I shall explain to him without reserve the utter

impossibility of his going back to Naples in any public situation.

From a letter of General Acton's which Circello * lately shewed me, I guess that he has no real intention of returning, but only means to hold that out as a threat in order to counteract the intrigues which are employed against him. I have no doubt from the picture you draw of the state of affairs there, that it is our interest he should remain.

Long before this reaches you the result of the Campaign in Italy will have been known at Palermo, & will I doubt not have been considered there as a reason perfectly decisive against the return to Naples before the actual signature of Peace. It is lamentable to see how the avidity of Austria on the one hand, & the jealousy of the Italian Court on the other, have thrown the whole of Italy once more at the mercy of France, & have brought Europe almost back again to the state in which it was during the disgraceful negotiation at Rastadt.† . . . .— Believe me ever, &c., G.

From the Hon. ARTHUR PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 6.] PALERMO, 4 *July*, 1800.

MY LORD,—When I first undertook to recommend to General Acton the propriety of His Sicilian Majesty's Return to Naples, one of the principal reasons opposed to me was, the Insecurity of Italy as long as Genoa should be in the hands of the French. Confident as I am that this is not the only motive which retards the execution of this material object, I gave no credit to the objection, as far as it could be taken politically, and the event appears to have justified me, for immediately upon the news of the fall of Genoa, I went to General Acton for the purpose of again pressing the subject to which my particular attention has been uniformly directed, and according to my expectation I found him cold and reserved, and unwilling to disclose any opinion upon the subject by which His Sicilian Majesty would be immediately committed. He said, in general terms, that the King would go back, but

* Neapolitan Minister in London.

† In 1798. Months were wasted while the French fomented division between the German representatives, and steadily raised their demands.

declined naming any time for his departure. According to the best calculation I am able to make this will not take place before the beginning of September, and when that epoch arrives I shall not be surprised if His Sicilian Majesty evinces a disposition to pass the winter at Palermo. I have more than once told General Acton that I am unable to discover a shadow of Reason for post-poning the King's return to Naples, while, on the other hand, the real advantage to be expected from it is obvious, and I have at the same time expressed my apprehension that this delay is calculated to produce an unfavourable effect in the mind of His Majesty. In answer to this I am told that His Sicilian Majesty can and will give such Reasons for not returning to Naples as will not only satisfy His Majesty but every other Sovereign. My principal fear is that if he delays it much longer, and that, in the interval, an unexpected reverse of fortune should enable the French again to penetrate into Italy, which God forbid, it will then be too late, even if he could be brought to consent to it.

I have hitherto said nothing of Prince Belmonte's Journey to Petersburg, the ostensible object of which is to carry the Orders of this Country to the Emperor of Russia.

It is not difficult to discover a considerable leaning on the part of this Court towards that of Russia. I have frequently, but particularly of late, conversed with General Acton upon the relative situation of the Court of Naples with those of Vienna and Petersburg, and I find that their jealousies and Fears of the former increase daily; it is, in fact, not a very easy task to justify the seizure of the three Legations, which is most loudly com-plained of here, but I have done everything in my power to satisfy this Court that the Integrity of the Neapolitan States will be respected, and I have pointed out the Impolicy of throwing itself in a moment of ill-humour too much into the arms of the Court of Petersburg, a conduct which, under the pretence of fear for Austria, would infallibly produce the evil of alienating more than ever the two Imperial Courts, as in the case of the Appeal made by the King of Sardinia to the Emperor of Russia,*

* In 1798.

without in fact procuring to itself there the smallest advantage. I expressed my hope to General Acton that Prince Belmonte* was not furnished with any Instructions the object of which might give umbrage to the Court of Vienna at so critical a moment as the present. To this he assured me that Prince Belmonte was sent to Petersburg in consequence of the desire of the Emperor of Russia to have the Orders of this Country, and that it therefore, in order to comply in a suitable manner with His Imperial Majesty's wishes, became necessary to send a person of distinction who should present them ; that he had no commission whatever independent of the Duke de Serracapriola, and that the Instructions of the latter with respect to the Court of Vienna were drawn up in the same language with those which are to be sent to Prince Castelcicala which he read to me, and the purport of which is, after expressing His Sicilian Majesty's perfect acquiescence in the sentiments conveyed upon this subject by Your Lordship to M. Circello, that under the present circumstances he is by no means to urge the Court of London to interfere or to make any representations to the Court of Vienna in favour of this Court, which might give uneasiness or ill-humour to the former. But there is a circumstance which, if Italy is not again invaded by the French, is calculated to cause, if not alarm, at least an unpleasant sensation at Vienna, and this is the execution of the Treaty concluded between the Courts of Petersburg and Naples, by which the former is bound to furnish 10,000 men to be at the disposal of His Sicilian Majesty. It is not, however, likely that a demand will be made for the whole of this force, unless danger should render it necessary.

Since I began this letter we have received accounts of the entry of the French into the Milanese, on which occasion I have thought it my duty to make one more effort for the attainment of the principal object I have in view. I have accordingly been with General Acton and have begged of him to represent to His Sicilian Majesty the increasing necessity for his returning to Naples, and of putting his Kingdom into a state of defence, and of directing all the operations himself and from his Capital.

* See letter of Lord Minto, May 27.

In this remote and inconvenient corner of Europe, where the arrival of news is precarious and uncertain, and where the news is usually false that does arrive, it is difficult at times to advise them how to act. In the present Instance I would wish to prepare them against events that may happen, but the existence of the very reasons which ought to engage His Sicilian Majesty to adopt this line of conduct will, I fear, be the greatest obstacles in the way of it.

I am indeed, My Lord, in despair about this business. I cannot think that General Acton is serious about it, and yet I know that the King, who is most violent in his temper, is outrageous when the subject is mentioned to him.

Among other things I am now told that the Court of Vienna, though I know that the Empress in her private letters to the Queen has frequently pressed it, had never intimated a wish to see His Sicilian Majesty back at Naples, a circumstance which is not considered as favourable here. Your Lordship in the month of March last was, I believe, put in possession by M. Circello of a Memorial supposed to have been presented by Mr. de Thugut to the Emperor, in which the views of the House of Austria on Italy were established in a manner extremely prejudicial and alarming to this Court. Whether that paper is authentic or not would be extremely important to know, but no doubt is, of course, entertained here of its being so. Whenever therefore I endeavour, through policy, to soften matters, this document is referred to as a proof of the insincerity and rapacity of Mr. de Thugut. Their situation is in fact humiliating, for a fresh insult is every now and then offered them by the Austrians; the last is in the case of Ascoli, a place immediately upon the Neapolitan Frontier, which bore the Imperial Neapolitan and Roman colours. A detachment of Austrians have taken possession of it, and having struck the others, have hoisted the Imperial Colours only. It is, however, in vain to represent that these marks of Slight would perhaps not be shewn if His Sicilian Majesty would return to Naples and thereby restore his Country to Security and himself to the Esteem and Respect he formerly enjoyed in Europe.

It may not perhaps be quite foreign to the purpose to say a word or two concerning the present situation of the Pope, as far as it relates to this Country. It appears, from all the information I have been able to obtain, that His Holiness, from the day of His Election, began to entertain suspicions that it was not agreeable to the views of the Court of Vienna, under the present circumstances, that he should be seated in the Papal Chair, nor does it appear, from the Answer he received from thence to the intention he intimated of going immediately to Rome, that his doubts were ill-founded. This Court, on the other hand, took the earliest opportunity of inviting him to His Capital. The invitation to be sure was accompanied by a resolution of not withdrawing the Neapolitan troops from Rome, till the Austrians had quitted the Ports on the other side of it, a resolution which I have been informed has met with the entire concurrence of the Pope. With regard to any projects of acquisition this Court may be supposed to have (and I have understood that the desire of possessing Ancona has been attributed to it) I think I can venture to assure Your Lordship that it has no views of Aggrandisement whatever. It is, I fear, more likely that that place may by some future arrangement fall into the Hands of the Emperor.—I have the honour, &c., A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 7.] PALERMO, 4 *July*, 1800.

MY LORD,—The very sudden & very unexampled change of affairs which has taken place in the North of Italy is I fear too likely to spread its baneful effects in the South for me not to expect the most fatal consequences to happen if the French advance. Since the first accounts we received of the defeat of the Austrian Army & the extraordinary consequences which immediately followed it, which reached us the day before yesterday, I have had several interviews with Gen[l] Acton, in order to come to some decision as to the measures to be adopted at this crisis, and I am glad, in the first instance, to observe that as far as language goes the General has used a tone of firmness suitable to the danger of the moment.

One of the first measures of this Government has been to apply to me to have the assistance of some of the British troops in the Mediterranean. All that it is in my power to do has been to write very fully upon the subject to Lord Keith, to whom His Sicilian M^y has likewise addressed Himself. A similar request has been made to the Russian Minister & Adm^l Ouschakow. The number of their own forces may be put down at 19,000 men, from which, deducting the number that it will be necessary to leave in the garrisons & other duties, not more than 12,000 can be counted upon to take the field; to these are to be added 6000 Russians and 5000 British, making a combined army of 23,000. This my Lord is the calculation made here. It is superfluous to say that not having any Instructions upon the subject I have not taken upon me to make any specific promise of assistance, and it has only been upon the condition that H.S.M. would go immediately to Naples, in case he can collect this body of troops, that I have consented to write to Lord Keith, and my particular reason for making this stipulation was, that in case the Commander in Chief's orders should allow him to acquiesce in the demand about to be made to him, the difficulties which might arise from the circumstance of a mixt command, supposing the events take place I have mentioned, might be immediately done away by the presence of the King at the head of the Combined Army. The State of the Russian Force which can be disposed of is as follows. At this present time there are at Naples 1200 Grenadiers & the crews of two frigates which in case of great emergency would be disembarked—the force under Admiral Ouchakoff & Prince Wolkonsky, which are on their passage from Corfu to Malta, consist of 2200 infantry & about 2000 seamen which might also be employed on shore, & as the Admiral's orders extend to the security of the Kingdoms as well as to the siege of Malta, he will, it is expected, make no difficulty in altering his present destination.

This therefore, my Lord, is the exact state of the force to be opposed against the whole French army, which can at any time march from Urbino into the Roman States without violating the Armistice with Austria. But with respect to the internal situation of the Kingdom of Naples

the prospect is by no means satisfactory. By the accounts received here last night it appears that some degree of fermentation had begun to manifest itself at the idea of the approach of the French, & the People had also begun to cry out loudly for the Return of the King. What I all along apprehended is I fear now become the case, I mean that such events might happen during this cruel loss of time at Palermo as would render the return of H.S.M. dangerous when it would be most necessary. We know too well from past experience what materials his army is composed of. I do not exaggerate when I say that the greater part of his Nobility is disaffected, & the people, under pretence of hatred to Jacobinism, are ready & even panting for the moment to commit the most horrible excesses. This state of affairs is I fear too tantalizing for the Enemy to delay the pursuit of their Conquests, and at the same stroke to operate another revolution in the kingdom of Naples. However if the force above alluded to can be got together, I shall not be quite without hope that the torrent may be withstood.

There is however another mode by which I find that this Court is not altogether without hopes of being relieved from it's present embarassing situation, & that is that the events which have lately taken place as well in Germany as in Italy may lead to a general Pacification, in which event His Sicilian Majesty looks forward with trust & confidence to the Friendship & good offices of His Majesty for the preservation of the Integrity of His Kingdom. It has at the same time been distinctly declared that H.S.M. is determined to respect to the utmost of his power the safety & Honor of his country, & that no consideration shall induce Him to listen to any terms of peace without the sanction of His Majesty, but it appears to me that if the Cisalpine Republic is allowed to exist it matters little whether the King of Naples is at war or in peace with France, as a revolution of his Kingdom becomes inevitable unless such a system of government is adopted as I almost despair of seeing. Your Lordship may easily imagine the effect which the Armistice concluded between Generals Melas & Berthier has created here. In the present uncertain state of things, & removed as I am from the scene, I feel that I need not

intrude any longer on Y^r L^p's Patience, I will only add that Y^r L^p may rest assured that every exertion in my Power shall be used at this dangerous moment to influence this Court in what may appear to me most adapted for it's own as well as the public good.—I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. ARTHUR PAGET *to the* Countess of UXBRIDGE.

1800.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—I had the satisfaction of receiving a very kind letter from you three or four days ago dated the May by a Messenger from Vienna, as I am going to send off a Servant with dispatches to Lord Minto, I cannot resist the opportunity of thanking you for it. If anything could increase the Value I set upon your letters, it would be your kindness towards me compared with the rest of my Family. I should except Paget from whom I have heard once, & Charles who has written twice to me. You will easily conceive what my disappointment & vexation is at learning that the latter is not coming into the Mediterranean. I look forward however to seeing him on his return from the West Indies, where I conclude he will not remain more than two or three years.

4th July.

I began this letter some days (ago) meaning to send it off immediately, but different circumstances have induced me to retard the departure of my Messenger. I have, two days ago, received two of the kindest possible letters from you, how can I sufficiently thank you for them—one announcing the diabolical & monstrous act attempted against the King's life, one's joy at the miraculous escape which it pleased God to afford Him can only be equalled by the horror and execration with which one's mind is weighed down in reflecting upon the vile deed. I will only say God Almighty be praised!!!

I say nothing to you of the events which have lately taken place in Italy because you will hear all about it much sooner from other quarters. To tell you the truth my mind is made up for the worst, & I dislike the prospect

beyond measure. Our communication with the rest of the Continent is now cut off. I shall send my servant along the Adriatick from Ancona to Trieste—I hope he may arrive safe at Vienna.

I am fagged to death, I have been writing two nights together. If it is of any use I shall not grudge it, but I much doubt of my being able to do any good. I have just finished a long letter to the Prince. You mention Malmesbury also, if you see him pray say every thing most kind from me—there is another person whom you do not mention, but whom it is not difficult to guess at. Had I time, I have not spirits, to write to you upon the subject. However, you need not make yourself uneasy.

Did I not do right in advising Caroline not to come upon the Continent, at least into Italy? Independent of other considerations she never could have borne it. We are devoured with vermin, it requires every possible care to be free from them. You will of course hear from Edward somewhere in Italy; he wrote me word a short time ago that he was going to join Lord William Bentinck. I cannot understand Miss Scott's marriage with Canning, tho' nothing ought to surprize one. Whatever she does, most sincerely do I wish that she may be happy.

There is one more subject I would fain write to you about, but I will not make you unhappy as well as myself. I need not after that say, that my Father is that subject. I beg my Duty to Him. I beseech you my dear Mother not to alter towards me—I can write no more than to add that I am ever your most affectionate & dutiful Son,

ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[Private.] 4 *July*, 1800, PALERMO.

I have just heard from authority I cannot doubt that His Majesty will be requested to recall me from this Court. I cannot take upon me to say on what grounds it will be asked, but I believe that Prince Castelcicala is charged with the Commission. I understand thro' the same Channel that this (is) an Act of the Queen's, brought about thro' the Insinuations & Intrigues of L^{y} Hamilton, who before her departure, exacted a promise from His

Sicilian Majesty thro' the Queen that he would ask to have S^r W^m Hamilton again appointed Minister, and that this is the first step towards it.

Since I obtained this intelligence I have been examining whether any part of my conduct either in public or in private has been such as could afford the slightest offence to the Sovereigns to whom I am accredited, and I am obliged to declare upon the word of a Man of Honour that I cannot accuse myself of having either directly or indirectly by word or by deed acted in a way to create discontent towards me. In the case of my recall being asked for by the Elector of Bavaria, the cause immediately occurred to me, & that cause was nothing more than the holding a language which I thought became the character with which I was cloathed. In the present instance I have seen (except at my audience) His S. M^y but once, when I had the honor of dining with him in the country, after which occasion he was pleased to express Himself in the most gracious manner in speaking of me. Neither have I seen the Queen more than once, & I shall now mention how that was, altho' at the time I did not think it worth while to take notice of it. Three days previous to Her S. M^y's departure I wrote to Her Grand Maitre, Prince de Luzzy, to say that I should be extremely happy to have the honor of paying my Respects to Her S. M^y & desiring to know the day & the hour that would be most agreeable to her, in consequence of which I was appointed to the Palace next evening at 8 o'clock. After waiting near 3 quarters of an hour H.S.M. came into the room where I was, attended by S^r W^m & L^y Hamilton, L^d Nelson, &c., & where the whole court were, & spoke one or two sentences to me. I really, my Lord, should not mention this had it not happened that the Russian Minister who had taken the same step as myself was invited to a private Audience which lasted over an hour. This circumstance, coupled with the very disadvantageous manner in which Her Sicilian M^y has on every occasion expressed herself of me, made me imagine that she would do everything in her power to have me removed.

With respect to the part Gen^l Acton may have taken in this I am totally at a loss. I can only say that he has on many occasions expressed himself to be perfectly

satisfied with my manner & conduct towards him, and it has also come round to me that this was one of the causes of contention between the Queen and Him. With regard to my conduct in general, whenever I have urged a measure I had to recommend it has always been accompanied with expressions of friendship—whenever I may have appeared to be dissatisfied I have taken care to shew that it proceeded from regret & anxiety rather than from ill-humour. I have never made a remark upon the situation of this country (a subject upon which it requires a greater share of patience than mankind is generally endowed with in order to reflect upon it with temper & coolness without [*Sentence left unfinished*].

Far from urging the King's return to Naples in a dictatorial manner as it was given out I should, I have ever recommended it in the most kindly terms. In fine I had scarcely arrived here before I discovered the number of my enemies. Had I therefore had no better motive, policy at least would have put me upon my guard, notwithstanding which I have been accused of a variety of things I never thought of, & no art has been neglected to render me odious to their Sicilian Majesties & their Gov^{t}.

Since writing the above I have obtained some further Intelligence upon the Subject of this letter which I think it my duty to communicate.

My opinion that the Queen had taken an aversion to me, and that what I have been speaking of was a measure of her's, is so far from being ill founded that I know for a certainty that she left no means untried to engage the King & Gen^{l} Acton to make a formal request that I might be recalled; but upon being asked what plea could be urged for desiring it she could bring forward no other than that "I was too young." Both the King & Gen^{l} Acton declined, as I understand, to interfere directly in the business; it is therefore left to P^{ce} Castelcicala to manage in the best manner he can.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord KEITH.

PALERMO, *9th July*, 1800.

I have this morning learnt that the Spaniards are going from hence to Naples in ord^r to have their bottoms examined & repaired, for which there is no convenience in this harbour, & that they are not in a situation to undertake a longer voyage till that operation shall have been performed. My Intelligence informs me also that the Neapolitan frigate which sailed three days ago for Naples, has orders on her Passage back to take a look at Maritimo, & about there in order to see whether there are any English or Russian ships cruizing in that Quarter. This is carrying friendship rather far at our expense, if it is true. I shall not say any thing upon the subject to Gen^l Acton, because if he is obliging enough to wish for the safety of the Spaniards, for the same reason he would prevent their sailing, if he found out that I was acquainted with their Intentions.

Adieu, I have nothing further to add upon this business except to wish from the bottom of my heart that you may be some days hence some £100,000 richer.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord KEITH.

[Copy.] PALERMO, *9th July*, 1800.

MY DEAR LORD,—The Count de Luc Vintimiglia, a Colonel in the Neapolitan Service & Chief of the *Etat Major*, who arrived here three days ago from Rome for the purpose of Consulting with Gen^l Acton a plan of operations to be adopted in case of the Enemy's advancing upon the Neapolitan Territory, left this place last night on his return to the army. It has been determined to draw a Line of defence from Pescara across the Kingdom to Gaeta and to fortify every position in the best manner possible between those Two Points, and there to wait with determined *Coolness & Courage* the approach of the Enemy whom it is meant to resist with all due bravery. The eyes of everybody is turned towards us for succour, it is certainly our Interest to prevent Italy from falling into the hands of the French,

such an event would indeed be fatal to us, as they would have but a step to this Island, Malta, Corfu &c. &c. &c. & so on a pretty Chain of Ports toward Egypt. I must, strange to tell! inform you that to this hour there is not a magazine of any kind formed in the Kingdom of Naples—in case we send Troops it is important that our Commissaries should know this; of course I have spoken about it, & this to be sure is a Country where with money, one may have magazines from one day to another almost.—Most affᵗʸ Yours A. PAGET.

P.S.—Once more Come down here, my good Lord; for God's sake let us get the King to Gaeta, it is shameful and Scandalous to tarry here at such a moment, I fret myself to death, and I can do no good. If you cannot come & would like to see me, send me a ship of any sort and I will be off at a moment's warning; we ought to meet.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, *16th July*, 1800.

MY DEAR SIR,—It is in vain to look back to the unfortunate events which have happen'd since my last letters, when the prospect was brighter. The battle of Marengo, or rather the convention of Alexandria,* has made a total change. I am sorry to add that the state of the Austrian Army in Germany, dispirited & render'd I may say wholly unserviceable by faction & indiscipline, creates a still more serious difficulty than the events in Italy would do alone. These circumstances have render'd an Armistice as necessary to the Emperor as it seems to be thought desirable by the French, & you may expect to hear immediately that the Armistice is extended to Germany. The difficulties however which require an interval of leisure & repose are not by any means incapable of remedy, & are not such as necessarily require a peace, or lay the Emperor in any degree at the mercy of the enemy. On the contrary Melas will I hope be, in a few days even, in a condition, by the junction of all the Austrian troops in Italy, to cope with Bonaparte's army.

* See Lord Keith's letter of June 20.

And I flatter myself measures which are in contemplation for restoring the spirit and discipline of the Army in Germany may prove successful, & furnish the means of measuring the superiority in that quarter also. If these hopes should be realised there is a fair prospect of seeing hostilities renew'd at no distant period, & such I may venture to assure you is the real wish & hope of this Cabinet. We continue in the mean while in the most entire & confidential concert in every point, whether of war or negotiation, & these fortunate dispositions are very recently confirm'd by a treaty which binds us to make no separate peace, & not to treat separately even for a general peace. The Emperor continues firm to these engagements in the midst of his reverses.

You must expect nevertheless to see negotiations for Peace arise out of the Armistice, & if that should be the case it is already determined that we shall take a share in those negotiations, in concert with Austria, for a general pacification. Whether they will terminate in Peace or in a renewal of hostilities must no doubt depend in part on the terms proposed by France, & also as I have said on the prospect that may exist a few weeks hence of carrying on the war successfully.

The Allies of England may depend on not being forgotten, & I am happy to be enabled, in answer to a direct & anxious application I took it on myself to make on the subject, to say that the Emperor will himself attend to the interests of the King of Naples, & see that his Sicilian Majesty is included in the pacification. I must at the same time add that B^{n} Thugut informs me it is the Emperor's wish to conduct the negotiation in as simple & uncomplicated a form as possible, & to avoid a general Congress & all its intricacies & delays. For which purpose he suggests, as a more convenient method, that those of the Allies who have a particular connexion with his Majesty, or place a particular confidence in him, should give their full powers to the English minister, while the Emperor will take charge of others. His idea is therefore that England should negotiate for Naples. I mention these notions, crude & premature as they are, for your information & that of the court at which you reside, that they may frame their measures as in their

wisdom they shall think best on this information. I know not where the negotiations are likely to be held, nor who is likely to be employ'd by his Majesty; but Vienna will necessarily remain the principal centre of such affairs as are the subject of the concert between the King & the Emperor; & therefore it would be of real moment that the most confidential and cordial understanding should subsist between the Neapolitan Minister & myself, & I cannot help, in pure regard for their Sicilian Majesties, recommending that this should be adopted. It is not long since I flatter'd myself that the King & Queen of Naples would have thought their interests & wishes as safe in my hands as they could be in those of any fair & honourable man living, & this is a confidence which I merit at this hour as much as I ever could by the most unfeign'd & respectful attachment to them. But I am now inform'd with certainty that the Queen expresses very different sentiments concerning me. I never was more surprised than when I learnt this, & I confess my own sentiments are still such as made such a change in those of her Majesty very painful to me. I do not conjecture in the most remote degree the cause of this change, but, to put my own feelings aside, I really hope that their Majesties will not allow such an error to prejudice their affairs so much as it seems possible that any reserve & ill understanding between their minister & myself on the important concerns that are now in question may do. I write thus, not in the way of expostulation on my own account, but from a sincere & anxious concern for the interests of their Majesties, over which it will, in all cases, be my duty & my pleasure to watch, but which I may certainly serve more effectually in concert with themselves, than in a state of mutual distrust and alienation.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

LEGHORN, *July 16th*, 1800.

DEAR PAGET,—I got your letter and had sent some Ships to Way Lay the Quicksilver men,* but by Your Account I think they will not move yet—The Queen, Nelson & — left Florence two or three days ago after

* See Lord Keith's letter, Aug. 5.

ADMIRAL LORD KEITH

embarking and landing repeatedly. I was so displeased by the withdrawing of the Ships from before Malta, and with other proceedings that Her Majesty did not take any notice of me latterally which had no effect on my attention to Her Rank, what a Clamour to letting in the Ships to Malta will occasion I assure you nothing has given me more real concern it was so near exhausted—Coll Callander complains of your unkindness *to Me* in not promoting His Views it were better He befriended himself by improving His Conduct He might then do without either of us. I this day refused to write Gen[l] Acton about him, News here is contradictory One letter says the french are near Vienna another that Kray has defeated and killed Moreau, Kray Wounded in the thigh, but I have not had a dispach from Minto since the 23d June nor one Scrap from Gen Melas or Bentinck* since I came here which is odd enough it is said Gen Bellegarde is to succeed Melas who is at Mantua with 80,000 men.

From England we have nothing the Road is not open in a Hamburg paper I see Dundas Privy Seal for Scotland Bridport a Viscount, the Combined fleets driven in by Lord St. Vincents Squadron—the Report of the day is that Hostilitys are to recommence immediatly not between us however unkind you are, therefore I am, &c. (Signed) KEITH.

I saw the Coll† for a Mo.nent he is gone to Mahon again with the Reg[t].

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

LEGHORN, *July 20th*, 1800.

MY DEAR PAGET,—I had yesterday a letter from the King and one from Gen Acton on the subject of sending our force to Naples and for one unless we attempt some

* Lord William Bentinck was at this time at the Head Quarters in Vienna. He was in Austrian service for a year and a half under the Archduke Charles, having before that served under Suvarow. He is chiefly famous for his share in the Sicilian Revolution of 1811. When Queen Caroline opposed the English after Acton's death, Bentinck forced Ferdinand to resign; Caroline fled, and Bentinck was made Generalissimo under a Sicilian Parliament.

† The Hon. Edward Paget.

other object of more importance I see no material objection under certain Stipulations, but I am but one of two Voices and on Military affairs it is reasonable I should be much inclined to the opinion of an officer like my Coleague,

I am informed by Mr. Lock that the King is loudly called for at Naples and the Army is doubted but I fear He will not go I have just been informed that the Armistice is prolonged in Italy for one month Bounapartes Aide de Camp is at Vienna settling some disputes about the Line of occupation, I have sent to Melas a second time to know if he will suffer the french to invade Naples during the truce, from Germany I have nothing certain reports sends the Court to Buda Kray Still at Ulm the French between him and Vienna, each party waiting reinforcements after a severe action on the 25 and 26th in Italy the french are more Rapacious than ever and their Mouths filled with religion, during the Armistice 5000 Austrians come into this Country to Discipline the people at their General desire—I wrote you a few days ago by Post which is not post haste, I am very sincerly My Dear Paget yours unalterably (Signed) KEITH

Capt Septimo does not seem to think the Spaniards intend to sail soon I have this instant a dispach from Gen Melas Lord William says it is understood the french have said they will not attack Tuscany or Naples during the Armistice but I have no great dependance *on french faith*—I think it is probable the Quiet will not last long the french will begin the Austrians are in bad spirits the latter is most *secret.*

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord KEITH.

PALERMO, 21 *July*, 1800.

MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I have no reason to repent of the intelligence I sent you respecting the Spaniards; on the Contrary, altho' they are not yet gone, I have every reason to believe that their departure is determined upon, & that it will be speedily realized.

You ask me how the pulse of the Russians beats, I

can only give you a little local information upon that subject.

Admiral Ouschakow has certainly orders to send the Russian Bataillons over at Corfu to Malta, but as these forces are equally destined for the protection of His Sicilian Majesty's Dominions, and as a formal request has been made from hence to have them in the Kingdom of Naples, it is possible that their present destination may be changed. In the meantime I confess to you, my dear lord, that I feel a great degree of embarassement in learning what General Pigot's orders are with respect to the disposition of the British force at Malta * in the event of that place falling into the hands of the Combined forces. My instructions upon that head are positive, & are to adjust all matters relating to Malta to the satisfaction of the Russian ministers and Commanders. At the time therefore that these instructions were given it is clear that it was the intention of our government not to oppose the occupation of La Valette by the Russians. It appears that General Pigot's orders are in the direct opposition to that principle. I therefore much fear that if Ouschakoff arrived at Malta and found us disposed to dispute his right of garrisoning La Valette exclusively, he would withdraw his troops and make such a report to the Emperor of Russia as would tend to increase his ill humour towards England. I expect the Niger frigate here from Naples; if I can possibly manage it I shall go round in her to Malta in order to see Sir R. Abercromby who is I conclude there.

The marquis de Gallo † set out this evening; he will go to the Austrian Head quarters and to Vienna; his mission is to see if anything can be done for this Court, in case the late armistice shall be followed by negociation.

It would have been extremely satisfactory to me to have learnt from you the nature and result of your Conference with Her Sicilian Majesty's A. de C. at Leghorn, but I conclude that you had good reasons for not communicating them to me. I therefore say nothing—I

* See Lord Grenville's despatch of Oct. 17, and Lord Keith's letter of July 25.

† Neapolitan Minister in Vienna.

must however confidentially inform you that She is nearly as much out of humor with you as she is with me.—I remain, &c., (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

LEGHORN, 23 *July*, 1800.

MY DEAR PAGET,—I am honored with your letter of the 5th. and Certainly did never forget our conversation at this place, the renewal of Hostilities and many other reasons prevented my attempting carrying it into execution and my perfect ignorance on every thing going on in Quarters renders it impracticable,

Your letter from Italinski convinces me Russia wants to find a pretext for removing her troops to the Black sea the Chev[r] knows the Agreement as well as I do and settled at Malta the business of the quarters with Gen[l] Graham on a fair and reasonable footing I have written you an Ostensible answer at the same time I hope no Russian will ever set his foot on the Island we have now men enow there and yet I do not think we shall take it, the french are determined to save it and they have so many ports in the Adriatick to send Vessels from that a perfect Blockade is impossible Had not Nelson quited it and taken the Ships off the Station it might have fallen about this time,

On the subject of assisting Naples I write you by the Lipari Brig at the same time I had the Honor to Answer the King and Gen[l] Acton, I have had a Second application from Gen[l] Melas for the troops to be ready but not Landed here or in Naples because the french promise not to invade Naples during the Armistice &c. I have submited all the Military part to the General and for my own part I think we must employ the troops to cover Italy in case of need unless they are employed on some more essential Service or otherwise directed from home with six thousand Russians we could do a great deal but I doubt your getting any of them

You talk of Marines alas they were all landed at Malta and are reduced to 178 by the fever of that Island which is severly felt by the Ships of the Squadron indeed the

Brest fleet* seems so intirely to occupy the Admiralty that we are forgotten and there is so much to do here and so little comfort in those who are to do it that I have asked Lord Spencer to let me go home

Graham writes for me to come to Malta which I am inclined to do if possible, I want to send another officer to supersede Smith but unfortunately the old Captains are *unfit to go distant* and from my late second† I derived no Advantage the uncertain state of things on the continent detains me here so that we may be ready to act if required. . . . .

Of News I can only tell you from *Newspapers* and *hearsay* the communication with England and our letters to General Melas &c. have been intercepted and sent to the Head Quarters of the french, from Germany it appears Kray is at Breneau between which place and Munich there have been some fighting which seems to have ended in favor of the french Le Compte de St. Julian is gone to Paris on the part of the Emperor but what Mission I do not know but is said to Negotiate for a Peace, It is now a long time that I am without accounts from Egypt

I beg you will assure the King and Gen^{l} Acton that every step I can take for the safty of the Kingdom of Naples I will persue with pleasure and certainly so long as the Austrians will cover Italy the true way is to render their army Strong so that the french will not be able to make any considerable detachment either to Naples or Tuscany

I wrote Gen^{l}. Acton to request He would send a Small Ship to Ancona for the purpose of keeping up the Communication with Vienna and Britain farewel, beleive me with truth Ever yours &c. (Signed) KEITH.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

MINOTAUR, IN LEGHORN ROADS, *23rd July*, 1800.

SIR,—I am honoured with Your Excellency's letter of the 5th instant enclosing copies of those which have passed between The Chevalier Italinski and you.

* An immense fleet had been gathered at Brest: it was Bonaparte's intention to bring it to the Mediterranean to co-operate with the Toulon fleet.

† Lord Nelson had been second in command in the Mediterranean, and his mode of conducting operations of war from Palermo had roused the anger of both Keith and Suvarow.

I must confess my surprise on finding that Admiral Usciakoff should have been so long in discovering his inquietude,* on a subject which has been so long known to Monsieur Pousskin, Chevalier Italinski, and I have reason to think to the Admiral also.

It is now twenty-three months since Malta has been blockaded by the British Forces, and it is thirteen months since I have been in possession of the stipulation of the three Courts respecting the conjunct possession of the Island in the event of its yielding to the Allied Powers; during all which time I should have had the greatest pleasure in having explained myself to any Admiral or General of His Imperial Majesty, who might have applied to me on the subject. The agreement seems to be clear and distinct, and His Majesty's orders to His Officers equally so, and I can venture to assure Le Chevalier Italinski, that there is every disposition on the part of His Majesty's Officers to fulfill them, and to act with His Allies in a fair, open, and honourable manner. Those who could fail in this point would ill deserve to hold the situations which they fill. And I am sure that the character of General Graham, as an individual and an Officer, cannot justify any such suspicion being entertained of him. I had heard that in classing the Quarters, that which was allotted to the British was unwholesome and inconvenient; and that the Chevalier Italinski was convinced of its being so, and had agreed that the different Nations should take that Post in turns, and for a short time only, which seems reasonable for the preservation of the health of the Troops, and as an act of impartiality to the Nation that has so long sustained the fatigue by sea and land, and incurred the loss of the many lives that have fallen a sacrifice to climate and want of comfort.

I beg the Chevalier Italinski will do me the honour to assure Admiral Usciakoff, that I am incapable of entertaining jealousy of any Officer in the service of His Imperial Majesty; and if I am so fortunate as to meet His Excellency the Admiral I have no doubt that I shall experience the same candour on his part that he may depend on, on mine,—I have the honour, &c., KEITH.

* See letter to Italinsky of July 1.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

24th July, 1800, LEGHORN.

DEAR PAGET,—An officer is this instant arrived with the enclosed, not one word of Naples and from what Bentinck says I forsee all Italy will be plundered once more Our little force is a mite the french will have both their Armies at liberty when will england become Wise and have no Continental connections, I am in extreame impatience for Sir R Abercrombys return and much Yours, &c., KEITH.

[*Enclosure in* Lord KEITH'S *to the* Hon. A. PAGET *of July* 24.]

From Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK *to* Lord KEITH.

[Copy.] VIENNA, *July* 20, 1800.

MY DEAR LORD,—I have sent a Copy of the Armistice* in Germany to Sir Ralph Abercromby. I see that the Austrians expect that the French will take Leghorn, and tho' it will be a breach of the Convention, yet I perceive that they will have the weakness not to resent it. Every day the French make some new demand, and always carry their point from our want of energy and firmness.—Your humble Servt. (Signed) W. BENTINCK.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

July 25th, 1800.

DEAR PAGET,—I wrote you by the Messenger which left this on the 25th and sent a Coppy of the Armistice for Germany of Naples not one word is said and you will see by Bentincks letter Leghorn has Cause to tremble in short the Emperor will get a disgraceful peace at the expence of his Allies, I do not beleive the Russians have any intentions of sending a Man to Malta I wish you had not gone so far in you letter for that Agreement about quartering the men was never sent to me officially and cannot be complied with. the men would die and

* Armistice of Parsdorf, July 15; an extension of the truce, signed a month before at Alexandria between France and Austria, to the Empire.

the Nation be disgraced and Russia in complete Possⁿ of the Island, I wait with impatience for the return of Sir R Abercromby who left this on the 5th and I look for his return soon Yours most sincerely KEITH.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* General ABERCROMBIE.*

PALERMO, *Monday, 28 July,* 1800.

DEAR SIR,—I have the Honor to send you a Dispatch which I received last night from Lord Keith.

His Lordship will of course communicate to you His Sicilian Majesty's and General Acton's letters to Him, upon the Subject of a British Force which is solicited for the defence of the Kingdom of Naples.

At the time these letters were sent, a formal request of the same nature was likewise made to me, and I accordingly wrote to Lord Keith, not knowing where you might be at the time.

The present critical situation of affairs in Italy & the danger for the Kingdom of Naples which appears to increase, naturally render this Court more than ever anxious to see its own forces joined by those of its Allies, but even in that case it is at best problematical whether they would, unaided by the Austrians, be able to resist the Whole force of the Enemy.

His Sicilian Majesty can furnish about 10,000 men exclusive of the Garrisons, &c., &c., but from the reports I receive even these are in very bad plight, nor is there the smallest confidence on the part of the officers and men towards each other. But it is to the Mass which this Government looks for it's security, who have already made strong applications for leave to arm themselves. With respect to the Russians, they have between Corfu and Naples about 3500 Infantry, & in case of emergency about 2500 men would be collected from the Marines & crews of their different Ships which would be landed.

This is the force with which you would have to co-operate in case you should consent to the proposal which has been submitted to you.

* Then at Malta.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Sir R. ABERCROMBIE.

PALERMO, 2d *Augt*, 1800.

Mr. Jackson our late Minister at Turin, writes to Ld Keith that Bonaparte is now assembling an army at Dijon of 40,000 Men which bears the Name of *Armée de Naples*. Mr. Jackson adds, & I hope this is not true, certain it is however that Genl Willot has also received advice of the Army assembling at Dijon, but not this new and alarming *name*. . . . .

I have a Lettr this morning from Naples which says that upon the 4th Messidore Moreau attacked Kray at Ulm & on three other points on the Danube, & having forced them the Armistice took place; it is also said that a Prince Lichtenstein was dispatched to Paris.

The Government here is extremely uneasy and impatient to receive your decision upon the subject of the request made by H.S.M., & I have been again entreated to write to you. Their situation is indeed deplorable. They have neither the smallest vigor or energy themselves & they are to all appearance completely abandoned by Two out of Three Allies. The best thing they can do is to make their Peace if possible, but at this distance they are all for fighting.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, 2d *Augt*, 1800.

I think it my duty to tell you that before I had recd your dispatches, I had made an official request, at the Emperor's express desire, for the British troops at Minorca to be landed in Tuscany in the event of hostilities recommencing. The object proposed by this measure appears to be first the defence of Tuscany itself, & of the countries to the southward; secondly the reinforcement of the Imperial Army in Italy, if that measure should in the sequel be found eligible. It is justly thought, however, that to land a small body of English troops in any part of Italy during the armistice with Austria, & while there is no armistice with England, would only attract the enemy, & furnish a pretence for plunder-

ing & desplating during the armistice, and therefore without opposition from the Austrian army, every part of the South of Italy. This consideration alone would probably be thought sufficient to induce Sir Ralph Abercrombie, &, I should imagine, the Court of Naples itself, to suspend the measure mention'd in your dispatches, of landing the British troops in the Neapolitan territories. But there are in truth many powerful, & as they appear to me invincible objections to that mode of employing the British troops. In the first place I have been instructed to say that they were sent to the Mediterranean for the purpose of co-operating with the Emperor, in such manner as should be concerted with his generals in Italy. In the next place we are in fact now bound by treaty to the most intimate concert with that Power in war, & I may say in peace. But what should be decisive on the question, is the general interest, & especially that of Naples. To send our troops to Naples would be to put them completely *hors de combat*, or to engage them only in a losing battle. If the enemy is not restrain'd by a superior force in the North from penetrating Southward, we know the sort of defence that will be made when they reach the Neapolitan territories, & how unequal our handful of British would be to save that country, or to do more than acquire or preserve their own honour. Naples must in truth be defended by the superiority of the force opposed to the French in the North of Italy ; & therefore I have always thought, ever since I have had my foot in the Mediterranean, that the true policy of Naples was to contribute all she could to the success of the Austrian armies against the Invaders of Italy, & if possible, to cultivate the real friendship of that power. With regard to the latter point it is probably vain to hope from human passions, on either side, what pure reason can alone dictate, but I still think, & indeed I clearly see, that the part which Naples thinks it necessary to act at Rome, is injudicious, & while it is truly ineffectual to any useful purpose, is producing the worst possible effects on their own essential interests. But setting aside the hopeless speculation of political harmony, I would at least submit to you whether, instead of exhausting herself on great and useless exertions at home

& in Roman concerns, it would not contribute more effectually to the safety of Naples, in the event of a renewal of the war, to join a really solid & effective body of troops to act with the British in active & offensive operations against the enemy, either by separate expeditions to the coast of France & Genoa, or by reinforcing the Grand Army in the north of Italy. While the troops & exertions of His Sicilian Majᵗʸ are employ'd in defending the three Legations against the Emperor, & in controuling the supposed views of Austria, they are in effect promoting the progress of the French, who whatever the passions of the Italian powers may dictate, are a more terrible enemy than Austria. With regard to the Emperor's views in Italy I adhere firmly to what I before wrote, & I am warranted by the *most certain knowledge* of the subject in repeating that Naples has nothing to apprehend.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A PAGET.

LEGHORN, *August* 5, 1800.

DEAR PAGET,—I am informed by letters intercepted at Mahon that the Spianiards intend sending there Quick Silver in 12 Small Vessels to Carthagena if you can fish any information of that sort or of the Route they intend to take time of Sailing Sort of Vessels it may lead our Cruizers to them. I go to Mahon for a week either to that or this place you may write & adress to the Senᵗ. officer *what is public* in case of my being absent, Nothing now here you will know of six more Regts. having arrived at Mahon, the Emperor requests the British to cover the South of Italy I have refered it to Sir R A and think we should, a frigate cut out of Dunkirk and Gorie on the Coast of Africa taken is all hear, a Capt. Proby with despatches to me taken at Cesenattico near Rimini is Vexatious I am, &c.

KEITH.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

MINOTAUR, IN LEGHORN ROADS, 6ᵗʰ *August*, 1800.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose copies of a Dispatch this moment received from General Melas, which I beg

you will communicate to the Court of Naples, and which will convince His Majesty that the safety of his Kingdom has never been from before my Eyes, and that this Dispatch is in answer to my repeated demands on that subject.

Lord William Bentinck is gone to Vienna.—I have, &c.

KEITH.

[*Enclosure in* Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.]

From General MELAS *to* Lord KEITH.

MILORD,—Je m'empresse de vous envoyer, Milord copie de l'Article 4^{me} de la Convention qui a été stipulée le 31 du Mois dernier avec le Général en Chef de l'Armée françoise d'après lequel la ligne de démarcation des deux Armées du coté de l'Italie Meridionale vient d'etre fixée. V. E. observera sans doute que par cette ligne le Royaume de Naples et les états de Rome n'ont plus rien a craindre de l'Armée Françoise jusqu'à ce que L'Armistice actuel continue, d'autant plus que le Chateau d'Urbino et de S^{t} Leo, seront occupés par les Troupes Imperiales. J'espère que vous approuverez Milord, cette negociation je le souhaite au moins bien vivement, puisque rien ne me flatte autant que l'approbation d'une personne pour laquelle j'aurai toute ma vie le plus grand respect, c'est dans ces sentiments que j'ai l'honneur d'etre, &c. MELAS.

Du Quart. Gen^{al} de Verone, ce 2 Aout, 1800.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

LEGHORN ROAD, *August* 6, 1800.

DEAR PAGET,—Jones first Aid de Camp to Melas came here this morning, He reports the Empire and Russia as friends again and that Prussia had made some strong remonstrance to france in Lucca which they Abandon the Rascals Levee the fourth contribution this day and to morrow deliver it to the Austrians, in Piedmont they are equally rapacious and the wretched inhabitants are in Arms and having Killed the Garrison of Mondovi are in the place—the Duke of Aust tells me twenty Batt^{s} of french have re-crossed the Alps He conjectures in

consequence of the Prussians advancing in conjunction with Russians from Poland, Jones who is said to be a Spanish Jacobin call Malas, 90,000 Strong and giting stronger every day I am yours very faithfully, I wrote you Yesterday and sail in half an hour. KEITH.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lieut.-General PIGOT.

PALERMO, 12th *Augst*, 1800.

MY DEAR GENERAL,— . . . . I am informed that y^{r} orders are, in case of the fall of La Vallette, to hoist English Colours only, and this Intelligence has given me, I own to you, both concern & surprize, in as much as such an event would not fail to create much uneasiness at this Court, and in my opinion with reason. I have yet to learn upon what principle this new order of things has been determined,* for it is in direct opposition to the spirit both of Lord Keith's & my own Instructions upon the subject of Malta—which are that the fortresses of Malta shall be garrisoned by the combined forces, & so on, & kept as a deposit in trust for the ord^{r}. of S^{t}. John of Jerusalem, of which order the Emperor of Russia is acknowledged Grand Master. If therefore such an arrangement was agreed upon between the Three Powers, it seems a little hard that La Vallette should be occupied by the British to the Exclusion of the Neapolitans, without any previous declaration or assignment of reason for such an exclusion. I say exclusion because I imagine that if the British Colours are to be hoisted only, it is implied that His Sicilian Majesty's Troops are not to form part of the garrison of La Vallette—& here I cannot help observing that this Court has during the whole Siege contributed handsomely towards the reduction of Malta. I do not mean to pass a panegyric on their military, but such as it is, it has been at the entire disposal of the British Commander, & as to Money & Corn, they have been supplied unreservedly. Under these Circumstances, It appears to me that H.S.M^{y}. is entitled to the honor & satisfaction of seeing his flag

* See letter of Sir C. Whitworth, December 28, 1798. Mr. Paget did not know that in July, when the loss of Malta was imminent, Bonaparte had offered it to Paul, and sent him the sword which Leo X. had given to the Grand Master L'Isle Adam.

flying in the principal fortress of Malta, in the event of its reduction.

If the British take possession of Malta as a place conquered from the French, and by the right of Conquest hoist their Colours in La Vallette, it must be remembered that the Neapolitans have born their share in the Siege (tho' not to the same extent as ourselves neither in expence, or in armament) and consequently that they have a proportionate right of the same nature. I should therefore be sorry that any thing was done which might give uneasiness or offence to our Ally, who tho' weak, is Sincere. My Idea would be, in the event of either the surrender or reduction of La Vallette, & the other fortresses to hoist English and Neapolitan Colours, and also those of the Ord^{r}. of S^{t}. John of Jerusalem. You, my Dear General, will of Course refer to, & abide by the orders of the Commander in Chief, but in case those orders shall be discretionary, I have taken the Liberty of suggesting the above hints from motives which I am sure you will do me the justice to believe are good.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

MINORCA, *August* 20, 1800.

DEAR PAGET,—I got your letter of 21st July this moment it had been to look for me at Leghorn,

I do not believe we shall have any Russians on Malta, and all my instructions are a fair and Honorable participation of the Duty until the Island is Delivered to the *Knights* such are Sir Ralphs also, I do not know General Pigots orders, nor do I think we shall take the Island by Blockade

I had many audiances of the Queen at Leghorn, Her M and Her Ministers asked our troops Sir R & myself doubted the Authority and excused by the Pub^{c} paper You must have seen at the same time I never overlooked the safety of Naples, but the Queen expected the Whole Squadron to attend on Her Court which was impossible a Riot happened in the Square the Queen desired I would go to the people, I declined having no Authority, to do so and disapproving of all tumults on every

pretence in short Her Majesty took leave* of Every one in Public but me which gave me no concern because I felt proud of having discharged my duty to my Nation and the greatest respect to Her Majesty at the time I had an opportunity of Justifying two of my most respected frinds Minto and yourself. Sir Ralph is gone to Visit the Island but on his return I shall read him the public part of your letter Most Sincerely ever Yours KEITH.

From Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

HEAD QUARTERS, VIENNA, *August* 23^{d}, 1800.

SIR,— . . . . It may be satisfactory to you to know that it is the opinion of all military men here that it is impossible for the French as long as the Austrians remain in the North of Italy to make any detachment to the South of Italy. The having done it last year certainly was the cause of their having lost the whole Country. If Hostilities should recommence and the Austrians be beat the whole of Italy is at their mercy.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord MINTO.

PALERMO, 29th *Aug*st. 1800.

MY LORD,— . . . . I dislike as much as Y^{r} L^{p} can, to see this Court meddling as they have done for some time past in the Roman State,† indeed their Conduct in that Country ever since they have been there will not bear examination. I have very often had occasion to make representations upon this subject, as well upon public as private concerns, and of the Latter the Interests of the Albani family recommended by Y^{r} L^{p} have not been forgotten, tho' hitherto I have not been successful in their favor. In Considering the respective situations of the Courts of Vienna & Naples, & the mutual interest, particularly on the part of the Latter, they have to live on good terms, I am very much surprized when I think of the persons they have made choice of, to reside at the

* The Queen of Naples, Nelson, and Sir William Hamilton were in Vienna together in Sept. 1800.

† In answer to a letter of Lord Minto, printed in "Life of Sir G. Elliot," iii. 135. Cf. *ibid.* 100–103.

Court of the other. Not to expatiate upon the Qualities of Mr. Giansanti I will confine myself to acquainting Y^r L^p that the present Austrian Ambassador here, Count Esterhazy, is one of the men I have ever met with, the last calculated to conciliate measures; he is in the first place singularly disagreeable to Gen^l Acton, & knowing as I do the reason, I am not in truth surprized at it. It seems also that he enjoys in no way the Confidence of Mr. Thugut with whom, I understand, he has no communication whatever except upon the very commonest subjects. When therefore I think of these Ministers, far from being surprized at the Courts being upon an unfriendly & jealous footing, my astonishment is that they should be upon any footing at all, good or bad. If the Court of Vienna has cause of Complaints against H.S.M. & vice-versâ, who is to adjust the matter? if Y^r L^p will not do such an act of Friendship at Vienna, & myself the same here.

After what Y^r L^p did me the honor to state to me in Y^r Lett^r of the 16th July respecting the Emperor's wish, in the event of a negociation, that It should be carried on in as simple and uncomplicated a form as possible, I have been exceedingly displeased at finding that Marquis di Gallo had thought proper to go to Vienna. He is however placed entirely under your orders, and I am promised that if he deviates in the smallest degree from his Instructions that he shall be immediately dismissed the Service. He has written to Gen^l Acton to say that his stay at Vienna will probably be short, & I trust it may. If however Y^r L^p should judge his presence superfluous, I could, I dare say, succeed in having him removed. There is a Duke S^ta Theodore, Neapolitan Minister in Spain, whom it is intended to send some time hence to Vienna as Minister—what I hear of him is advantageous. I trust that Mr. de Thugut will be satisfied with the offer made from hence of joining a body of Neapolitans to the Imperial Army. I venture to promise that every other assistance will be given of which they have the means. I do assure you that I work very hard for Austria—it is true that I am at times obliged to talk a little against my conscience, but it is in the hopes of doing good.

Y^r L^p is extremely kind in the advice you give me about myself, but I feel that I am of so very little use here, and my prospect is so small even at any future Period of being of any, that I feel, I own to you, considerably depressed, and what adds much to it, is the circumstance of residing in this most uninteresting corner of the world, from whence I have so little hopes of escaping, unless the Queen's wish for me to be recalled should be attended with success. For myself Palermo, or any other place are alike, but I think our situation here disgraceful. I shall be curious to hear from Y^r L^p upon the subject of the Queen. I dread much from the circumstances of Lady Hamilton being with Her Majesty, whose influence is great, and whose ends are wicked.

A report reached us here a very few days ago that the Grand Turkish fleet under the Command of the Captain Pacha had been destroyed by fire, but it came in so questionable a shape, and from having heard nothing upon so important an event from our Consul at Corfu, I place no credit whatever in it. The conduct of her Sicilian Majesty since her departure from hence, has not given much satisfaction here, & having dragged, as it is termed, Lady Hamilton for whom Epithets are not spared with her to Vienna, is not considered here as very edifying for herself or her Royal Daughters.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* General PIGOT.

PALERMO, 14^th *Sept^r.* 1800.

MY DEAR GENERAL,—Your lett^r of the 3^d & 6^th Ins^t, the latter announcing to me the important events wh^ch have taken place under y^r Auspices, reached me only between ten & eleven o'clock the night before last, & yesterday morning at 6 o'clock I dispatched a servant to England who will, I doubt not, be the first to arrive with the news of the surrender of Malta. I took particular care to forw^d y^r Lett^r to M^rs. Pigot. I much fear that the manner in wh^ch it has been thought right by S^r R. Abercrombie to take possession of Malta, will if not remedied w^th address, be a source of jealousy and discord wh^ch may have very unpleasant consequences. I still maintain that to hoist the British flag exclusively, is

a direct and open breach of existing treaties—& between ourselves I am convinced within my own mind, that such never was the intention of Government—when the Island of Gozzo was taken possession of by L^d^ Nelson the Neapolitan colours *only* were hoisted. H.S.M^y^ would with pleasure have abandoned La Vallette to the English, but it is natural & just that as Sovereign of the Island of Malta & a part concerned in the reduction of the fortresses that He should see His flag flying in some part of them. To exclude Him from this is in my mind an arbitrary Act of Injustice. How matters will be made up with the Grand Master for excluding His flag, remains to be seen. I am upon the whole extremely sorry to observe the conduct we have adopted upon this occasion.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, 26^th^ *Sept^r^*. 1800.

You know the extraordinary conduct of Gen^l^ S^t^ Julien* in signing preliminaries without authority of any sort. The Emperor refused his ratification; & the French denounced the Armistice. Hostilities were to recommence on the 10^th^ Sept^r^. The Emperor proposed a prolongation of the Armistice, by letters addressed both to Paris and to Gen^l^ Moreau. Gen^l^ Moreau assented till further orders—meanwhile the Emperor took what then appeared to me the wise & noble resolution of putting himself at the head of his troops, reforming the bad spirit of the Army by firm and at the same time conciliatory measures, & animating its courage by his own example and that of his brother Arch-Duke John† whom he appointed Commander in Chief. The Emperor went; the Army recover'd the spirit of Austrian troops, & every thing promised a happy & honourable change. In the mean while the orders from Paris were rec^d^. Hostilities were to recommence unless the Emperor should surrender the Fortresses of Ulm, Ingolstadt & Philipsbourg. When I heard of this proposal I hoped the Emperor would answer it by an immediate attack for which indeed every-

* Envoy of the Emperor to Paris in July: the diplomacy of Talleyrand had proved too much for him.

† He was not yet nineteen. Melas, Kray, and Archduke Ferdinand were set aside in disgrace for the failure of the last campaign.

thing was prepared with the best possible prospect of success. But the Emperor, or Mons[r] de Lehrbach* who accompanied him, thought otherwise. After some days negotiation everything was granted & an Armistice of 30 days & 15 days notice after the expiration of the 30 was agreed to. The Emperor return'd the day before yesterday. The whole of this miserable & ruinous transaction is the work of Lehrbach, & directly contrary to the opinion of B[n] Thugut. Care was indeed taken that the convention should be signed, & even the places given up, before it could come to the knowledge of B[n] Thugut. The consequence is that B[n] Thugut has resign'd & I understand that M[r] de Lehrbach will succeed him at least provisionally. The consequence I draw from all this is a determination to make Peace at *all events* & *on any terms*. What the ulterior result may be I cannot now venture to predict & indeed my report must stop at this point for the present. A correspondence had been on foot in England with M[r] Otto, agent of French prisoners, on the subject of our taking part in the negotiations for Peace in concert with Austria. The French demanded an armistice with England, which was at first refused; but the French having declared that the continuation of the armistice on the Continent depended on His Majesty's agreeing to a maritime armistice, it was agreed to purely and solely to save the Emperor from the possible inconvenience of a renewal of hostilities at an unreasonable moment. The King's assent to this proposal was known at Paris on the 8[th] Sept[r]... A *projet* of armistice had been sent from Paris but so absurd and unreasonable that it was of course rejected. L[d] Grenville's *contre-projet* arrived at Paris the 10[th], notwithstanding which the French, who treated with Lehrbach at only 5 days distance from Paris, told him on the 19[th] & 20[th] Sept[r] that the English had positively refused to treat for an armistice. The Emperor rec[d] accounts of the truth at Lintz on his return to Vienna, & learnt therefore that he had sacrificed his own Glory, & in all probability the safety of his crown, for a short suspension of hostilities,†

* Appointed negotiator at Luneville; when he replaced Thugut as Foreign Minister Count Louis Cobentzl was made negotiator.

† Convention of Hohenlinden, Sept. 20, when Lehrbach surrendered Philipsbourg, Ulm, and Ingolstadt, and gained an armistice of forty-five days.

which His Majesty had already secured to him by the greatest sacrifice of our own convenience that it was possible to make,* and while we were thus employ'd he had violated the spirit of our mutual engagements, & left the King's allies in Germany exposed to utter ruin. Wickham† who was at head quarters was kept from the knowledge of this transaction, & pains were taken to prevent him from giving any opinion or making any remonstrance on the part of his Majesty. I propose very soon to send you a messenger to let you know, if I can, what is to come of this. In the mean while I must only beg you to believe me ever my Dear Sir, most faithfully and affect^y^ Your's, (Signed) MINTO.

From Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

HEAD QUARTERS, VIENNA, *Oct.* 8^th^, 1800.

For a moment we expected the recommencement of hostilities—General Brune‡ demanded Mantua, Pescheera, and Ferrara, & a free passage for the French troops into the south of Italy. As the Armistice in Germany had been concluded for both armies by Plenipotentiaries from each Court, there certainly was not the smallest pretext for General Brune's insisting upon separate terms for Italy. General Bellegarde resisted his demands with firmness & they were given up. These pretensions were the more impertinent as I think without being very sanguine for the result of the general operations that in Italy at least the Austrians would certainly have beaten the French. The Army was strong, in good spirits and confidence.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[Private.] *Oct.* 16, 1800.

MY DEAR PAGET,—. . . . We have had a look at Cadiz§ from ill Weather and Sickness in the place found it

* See Lord Minto's reference to negotiations in London, in letter of Nov. 1.

† Mr. Wm. Wickham had a second mission to Switzerland, and also to the allied armies, in 1799.

‡ Commanding 125,000 men in North Italy.

§ An immense force had gathered, but the attack was abandoned because of yellow fever in the town.

impossible to do anything at present the Enemy had no force of consequence to oppose but the Obstackles were unsurmountable, since which the Season has been uncommonly Tempesteus the fleet are dispersed having lost many anchors in Tetuan Bay, I fear some of the Ships must also be cast away we are compleatly done up I never felt myself without resource before I have no Stores to replace those gone, the Plague in Barbary, Worse in Spain, the Scurvy among the Soldiers, Flux among the Seamen. No fresh Meat or Vegetables, (And No Orders) but to remain here where there is not room for one third of the fleet by which Means twenty Ships have lost their Mast having ran foul in the Gale which still continues,—Farwel may you be more at ease than affectionately yours, KEITH.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

GIBRALTAR, *Oct.* 16, 1800.

MY DEAR SIR,—on the Subject of what passed at Malta* I never heard one word until the return of Sir Ralph Abercromby from that place when he told me the orders he had given and some(time) after he gave me a Coppy of an instruction He had from the Secretary of State but which had not been directed to me, I am glad the public affairs are placed in the Hands of those who are surely more able to Manage them than I can pretend to be, what orders I had given before were in Exact compliance with Lord Grenvilles Letter sent to me by the Admiralty and I beg you to assure the Court of Naples of my highest respect and how impossible it is for me to show any mark of inattention to the Government, the only proof I have in my power to show I have by petitioning His Majesty to include the Neapolitan Ships and troops in any reward His Majesty may be pleased to Bestow on His own Forces, upon the Whole I am content we have it because to get peace the french might have extorted the Island from Naples we I hope will make a better Bargain for it I am Dear Sir, &c. KEITH.

* See Mr. Paget's letter, Aug. 12.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

DOWNING ST., *17th Oct.* 1800.

SIR,—Your several dispatches to No. 13 inclusive have been received and laid before the King.

The embarrassment which you have experienced (as stated in your dispatch No. 13) in consequence of the variation existing between your instructions dated as far as the 22^{d} Jan^{ry} last, and those subsequently transmitted to Sir Ralph Abercromby relative to the Island of Malta, has been in a great measure inevitable; from the numerous delays and Impediments to which the intercourse of Great Britain with Sicily has been exposed, and from the great delicacy of the subject in question which did not admit of my explaining to you the various changes which have been made in this respect by the new situation in which the Court of Petersburg stands with respect to the present War.*

Since the date of the Instructions which were given to you, the conduct of the Emperor of Russia has been totally repugnant to that system of Concert and active co-operation which formed at once the object and the basis of the arrangement which was in question for the temporary and provisional occupation of Malta. The Russian troops and Ships wherever employed have been withdrawn, the Emperor's forces have in no degree contributed to the reduction of the Island of Malta, nor has he during the present Campaign afforded to the Allies the smallest aid against the common Enemy.

He has even recently adopted measures hostile to the interests of this Court, and, not content with declaring himself by a Memorial presented at Berlin in a state of

* Having broken with Austria, Paul quarrelled with England, (1) for not consenting in 1799 to join a congress of peace in St. Petersburg; (2) for the bad management of the joint expedition to Hanover, Oct. 1799; (3) for the siege of Malta; with other minor complaints. He withdrew his troops from Hanover, Nov. 1799; demanded the recall of Whitworth, Feb. 1800, and turned out the chargé d'affaires who replaced him in June; and in April ordered Warontzow to leave the embassy in London. He further opened negotiations with the neutral powers, Prussia, Sweden, and Denmark. The romantic disposition of Paul was deeply touched by Bonaparte's offer of Malta in July. After the peace with Austria, Bonaparte had sent back without exchange 6000 Russian prisoners, re-clothed and furnished with arms, with friendly messages to the Czar. The French and Russian Ministers were brought together at Berlin by Haugwitz, and came to a friendly understanding.

neutrality as between Great Britain and France, He has taken such steps as must leave it doubtful whether his occupation of the whole, or any part of the Island of Malta, might not, under the influence of his present disposition, be converted to purposes essentially injurious to this Country.

As the former agreement was by these circumstances wholly annulled, and as much the largest proportion of the land forces, and nearly the whole of the Naval force, employed in this arduous Service have been furnished by His Majesty, it has followed of course that the British Colours should be displayed on Forts reduced by His Majesty's exertions and garrisoned by His My's troops. You will however explain to the Neapolitan Ministers that it is by no means His Majesty's intention, by this temporary occupation of a Military position during the War to prejudge the question of the future disposition to be made of the Island at the conclusion of a general Peace. . . . .

The establishment either of Russia or France in that fortress might indeed give just cause of jealousy to His Sicilian Majesty, but no similar ground of apprehension could arise respecting Great Britain, which can have no views hostile to the security and independence of Naples. —I am, &c. (Signed) GRENVILLE.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 18.] PALERMO, 23^{d} *Oct^{r}.* 1800.

MY LORD,—. . . . I must not conceal from your L^{p} my alarms for the Consequences, if the French are allowed to advance into the South of Italy. In the first place the King of Naples has not an Army upon which any reliance can be placed, that is upon the Officers of it, whose corruption and degeneracy is so rooted, whose dislike to every principle of honor is so natural to them, that I see no remedy that can be applied with any probable success to the present generation of men. I once I believe expressed a faint hope to Y^{r}. L^{p}. that the state of the Army was improving, but I have since heard of so many instances of Treachery manifested by the very men from whom fidelity and attachment to their Sovereign was most expected, that I am led

to think that at least during the present War Cowardice and Treason will prevail in the Neapolitan Army.

Here I cannot omit acquainting Y^r. L^p. that another Conspiracy of a similar nature to that mentioned in my last, has been discovered among some of the officers in the Garrison of Caporea. Between three & four hundred of the Persons set at Liberty by virtue of the late Amnesty are involved in these traitorous transactions, the greater part of whom have already fled the Country. To allow offences of so alarming a nature to pass unpunished would not be consistent with Common prudence, and the safety of the State, yet it is melancholy and disgraceful at this period to be obliged to add to the Catalogue of Executions which have already so deeply stained the Kingdom of Naples. I know that H.S.M^y. now looks with a considerable degree of Confidence for the Defence of His Kingdoms to the *Armed Mass*, but I fear that they will only serve to harass not to stop the progress of the Enemy. It is at the same time right to observe that in the Abruzzi and other Provinces in general the Inhabitants continue to display the most favorable dispositions. It is lamentable to reflect upon the nearly inexpugnable Barriers which the Country as well as the fortified Places & Positions in it afford, & to know that they will probably become an easy prey to the Enemy. As to the State of Naples itself I cannot think quite so favorably, the Inhabitants worn out with the long expectation of seeing the return of the King, have become dissatisfied from disappointment, there are indeed many other Causes which have created a spirit of Discontent. There is but one Event which could alter this, & which I must reluctantly pass over, for H.S.M^y. having long since declared His determination of not going to Naples until He had a respectable body of Foreign Troops at his disposal, I scarcely allow myself to hope that He will change this resolution at such a moment as the present.

It is not however for Italy alone that I am alarmed. The French once masters of that Country, if they have no longer anything to draw their attention to the North will easily extend themselves into Greece, and from thence towards Constantinople, and these Countries, if the Information I have received be Correct, are already pre-

pared, if not for the reception of the French, at least for the perpetration of their Principles of Anarchy and Revolution. No fleet is required for similar expeditions, such vessels as will be found in abundance on both Coasts of the Adriatick will be sufficient for their purposes. Corfu and other islands in that Sea are now without garrisons, and if taken possession of by the French, which an inconsiderable expedition from the Ports of the Cisalpine Republic will enable them to do, the execution of their views upon the Countries I have already mentioned will be at once facilitated. If, as I have taken the liberty to remark, the Events in the North of Europe are not such as will frustrate the projects of Aggrandisement of the Enemy in the South, and if as there is every reason for supposing they have their Agents and Partisans in Poland, who in concert with Passwan Oglow* have extended their Influence and principles throughout that vast tract of Country into Greece, it is manifest that the Possession of Italy is indispensably necessary to them in order to carry their designs upon the Porte into effect. The Military Transactions in Egypt have unfortunately proved how unable the Turks are to stop the Progress of such an Enemy. With the view therefore of assisting H.S.M. it would be extremely essential to engage the Emperor of Russia to undertake this task by once more sending a force from the Black-Sea which would act with more vigor and efficacy than, owing to the extraordinary Character and temper of Ad[l]. Ouschakoff, was shewn by the Troops of that Nation who lately left the Mediterranean. . . . .

With respect to the disposition of the Inhabitants of this Island, I can say nothing particularly satisfactory. The French are certainly detested, because a Sicilian has a natural jealousy of and hatred to every thing that is not Sicilian. Government has certainly, in my opinion, not taken sufficient, indeed any pains to represent the Character, the Conduct & the Views of the Enemy as odious and formidable to the People, on the contrary I fear that Partisans of French Principles are allowed to

* A Mohammedan of Bosnia (born c. 1758), who waged war against the Turks, and seized Widelin which he fortified. The Government was forced to come to terms and made him Pasha. His life was a long series of struggles against the Turks, who tried to drive him from his independent position. He died in 1807.

perform their work unmolested ; at least in the Capital, for I believe the Inhabitants of the Provinces remain pretty nearly in their primitive state of Ignorance and Barbarity. The Ardour & Zeal testified by the Nobility upon the arrival of their Sovereign has apparently rather cooled, and the Circumstance of H.S.M. not having decorated a single Sicilian Nobleman with the new Ord^{r}. of S^{t}. Ferdinand lately instituted, has rather tended to produce this change of sentiment. It is pretended that, as the Order was instituted for the purpose of distinguishing those Persons who had manifested their particular attachment to H.S.M. at the Period of the troubles in the Kingdom of Naples, the Sicilians by the zeal and enthusiasm which marked their reception of their Sovereign had acquired an equal claim to those, who had only been the Companions of His disasters. Upon the whole, I think that the Conquest of the Kingdom of Naples will create a considerable degree of fermentation in this country. I have no better opinion of the Sicilian than of the Neapolitan Troops ; nor do I expect that such a conduct will be evinced by the higher classes in case of emergency as will do them particular credit. . . . .

The Spanish Squadron which had been in this Port above Two years sailed from hence some time ago. They cannot I expect fail of being met by H.M$^{y's}$ Cruizers. Their departure from hence was a most desirable event, as in general their principles were violently Jacobinical, and their conduct has been marked by many murders and assassinations, by which the Lives of many of the Crews of British and other ships have been sacrificed.

[*Cypher.*] I some time ago received a singular intimation from one of the first and richest Noblemen of this Country. He began by stating to me the general discontent of all classes of People, & their dislike to the King and Government, and the universal satisfaction with which the English would be received here. I treated this Insinuation as it deserved, and as the Author of it is of a most Artful character, I knew not whether it was meant as a snare for me, or whether he spoke his real sentiments.

I see by the Private Letters of the Queen of Naples both to H.S.M^{y}. & Gen^{l}. Acton in speaking of the Emperor ..

& her Daughter, that she spares no reproaches.* She appears also extremely dissatisfied with the Marquis di Gallo. In general I am led to think that Her S.M. is not allowed to take any part whatever in affairs, a circumstance which cannot fail to mortify Her, as she certainly left this country with very different expectations. The more experience and Information I gain, the more I regret that Her M^y. ever mixt in those in her own. [*Cypher ends.*] (Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord KEITH.

PALERMO, 26*th Oct.* 1800.

MY DEAR LORD,—I have had nothing particular to write to you upon since my last, for I was tired of discoursing upon the subject of Malta, where our Conduct has not been in my opinion exactly what it ought to have been. Had however the Case been otherwise, *You took good care that I should not know where to send my Letter.* I therefore beg Cap. Martin to forward this and also one from Gen^l Acton.

I have now to acquaint you that H.R.H. the Hereditary Prince has come to the resolution at this critical moment to go to Naples, in order to put Himself at the head of the Government of that Country. . . . .

The present danger which menaces the whole of Italy has imperiously called for the adoption of the above measure, the wisdom of which you will, I am sure, at once see.

It would of course have been more desirable could H.S.M. Himself have been prevailed upon to go instead of His son, but His aversion, *or whatever else you may think proper to call it*, to the Neapolitans is so great, that He has been induced to send the Prince Royal, tho' had the latter, for whatever reasons he might have had, not consented to the proposal the King Himself would most certainly have gone.

Under these Circumstances, your Lordship will have no difficulty in believing, that H.S.M^y is extremely desirous

* She had gone to urge the protection of Naples, and its inclusion in any peace which might be made. Her daughter, Maria Theresa, was the second wife of Francis, and had thirteen children.

that such squadron of British ships as can be spared should be sent to remain at, or cruize off Naples, in order to thwart any designs the enemy may have by Sea against that Place, as well as to secure a retreat to the Prince Royal in case future events should unfortunately render such a measure indispensable. . . . . I am, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[Most secret.]

MY DEAR PAGET,—We are ordered (*at this Season*) to attack the french in Egypt * so much for that our fleet has suffered extreamly in our attempt at Cadiz, it will be impossible to proceed without touching at Malta for many reasons, one wine which induces me to send a Trusty Clark to you requesting all Your Aid to enable him to procure and send that and other Articles to Malta and I am sure you will exert yourself on this Occasion because it is the Service of the Country we owe so much to. . . . . I am, &c. (Signed) KEITH.

For God sake do not send us Col[l] Callander † to make one of the Council with Sir Sidney and Gen Koeler, the Quicksilver got into Carthagena.

Gib[r]. Oct[r]. 26th, 1800.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, 1[st] *Nov*[r]. 1800.

MY DEAR SIR,—. . . . Since the date of my last letter of the 26[th] Sept[r]. material changes have taken place. Mr. de Lehrbach was named Minister of foreign affairs; but as this was a certain separate peace, & absolute ruin in every other way, I thought it necessary to make a stand on that point. I gave the Emperor fair notice of what was sure to happen. Viz: that England would consider the elevation of Mr. de Lehrbach, immediately after he had negotiated the convention of Hohinlinden, & excluded

* Bonaparte was making great preparations to succour his army in Egypt.

† In allusion to a letter from Mr. Paget telling of Callander's numerous debts, frauds, and swindling operations.

Mr. Wickham from a share in the deliberations on that affair,* as a declaration that the Emperor renounced the Alliance, and I assured him that His Majesty could place no confidence in Austria if her Government was administer[d] by that gentleman; & that the Emperor must choose between Mr. de Lehrbach & England. The appointment of Mr. de Lehrbach was given up. Count Cobenzl was made *Vice Chancellier de cour et d'etat*, which includes the foreign department, & B[n]. Thugut retain'd the direction of the Italian provinces, together with the title of *Ministre des conferences*, & a perfect understanding and confidential communication between Count Cobenzl & B[n]. Thugut left the hope that the system & opinions of the latter might still prevail. The Emperor, having had a personal share in the affair of Hohinlinden, was unwilling to abandon Lehrbach altogether, & he was appointed a *Ministre d'etat* and attach'd to the department of the interior. In the mean while C. Cobenzl was appointed also to the mission of Luneville;† & it was settled that the Comte de Colloredo,‡ *Grand Chambellan*, should supply his place in the foreign department during his absence. This arrangement however has proved merely nominal, for the want of experience & of habit in such affairs render'd it immediately necessary that the Comte de Colloredo should refer us to B[n] Thugut. All real business is therefore transacted with the latter; but under this great disadvantage, resulting from his resignation of his office & from all that ensued on the Convention of Hohinlinden, that nothing which now passes between us has the full sanction of Official Authority, which B[n] Thugut always states himself to be entirely without. The fact is that he continues to lend his assistance & advice, even in this equivocal & unbecoming situation, & the Emperor accepts of it, because everything would otherwise fall into inextricable confusion, & indeed to immediate ruin; but his command over the Emperor's mind is not now sufficient to afford a solid assurance of any steady system, nor is the real authority & influence of B[n] Thugut in affairs sufficiently strong to enable him to assume the responsi-

* See Lord Minto's letter, Sept. 26.
† Cobentzl had negotiated the treaty of Campo Formio in 1797.
‡ He had been tutor and friend to the Emperor and Archduke Charles.

bility of a Minister.* It would indeed be unreasonable to require this at his hands, in the present circumstances. The result is that this Empire has no Minister, which is like the Santissima Trinidada, the largest ship in the world, without a pilot; and in such a situation we may be glad to compound that we have the old admiral on board, at least as a passenger. However this state of things cannot last; it would be impossible for foreign nations to attach their fortunes to those of Austria on such terms, that is to say without the smallest security either for the adoption or the execution of a common system. All the good that is to be had now must be extorted from day to day by the terror of an immediate break up, that is to say of the separation of England. As there is but one remedy possible, I mean the restoration of B^{n} Thugut to a real direction of affairs, I presume & trust that the necessity of the case will soon work out this only cure for the present evils.

The two grand objects of speculation now are the mission of C. Cobenzl to Luneville, & the invasion of Tuscany.

C. Cobenzl on his appointment to the Office of Vice Chancellor, was authorised as the first act of his administration to give me the most formal solemn & precise assurances of the Emperor's determination to abide by his engagements with England & to adhere inseparably to His Majesty in peace & war. On this general declaration, I stated the particular case of the King's being prevented from treating for peace, by the French insisting on a naval armistice on unreasonable conditions, or by any other sufficient obstacle; & Count Cobenzl, after taking the Emperor's commands on this pointed & special question, declared that the Emperor was determined not to treat separately, & in the event which I had stated, would decline all negotiation with France, or break off any that might be commenced in expectation of England. He shew'd me his full powers which authorised him to treat only in concert with a Plenipotentiary from England. He left Vienna for Moreau's head quarters, with the design of proposing a prolongation of the Armistice, & of declining to go further, if that should be refused; but

* He retired before the peace of Luneville.

Moreau having gone to Paris, & Gen[l] Desolles having no power to treat on that subject, C. Cobenzl proceeded to Luneville where we have not yet heard of his arrival. In the mean while no notice has been given of the renewal of hostilities; but on the other hand I do not feel confident that the French will consider themselves as bound to give notice, & will not claim the right of commencing hostilities at the expiration of the 45 days, that is to say the 5th or 6th of this month. The Austrian Army is already concentrated, & in a position which will enable them to act instantly in case of necessity.

While these things were passing in Germany the negotiations at London appear to have been entirely broken off. As soon as the convention of Hohinlinden was known in England, there was naturally an end to all idea of a naval armistice, as this measure had been entertain'd in the sole view of obtaining the prolongation of an armistice on the Continent, for which in the mean while the French had extorted the three fortresses from the Emperor. On the termination of this negotiation for an armistice with England, Bonaparte proposed to treat with us either at Paris or London, for a *separate* peace. This proposition was instantly rejected, with a fresh declaration of His Majesty's invariable & unalterable determination to fulfill with punctuality all his engagements, & and to treat only in concert with those Allies who continued to make common cause with him in the prosecution of the war. Here the matter rested on the 10[th] Oct[r]., which is the last official date from London. On receiving this communication from England I have suggested the propriety of an immediate recall of C. Cobenzl from Luneville, unless it should be found in the interim that the French had consented to a joint negotiation for a general peace, & that Mr. Grenville had arrived at the congress. I have reason to believe that this order will be immediately dispatch'd from hence.

The invasion of Tuscany * is an impudent breach of faith in the French; & the permission of it on the part of Austria would be a fresh instance of pusilanimity, & of disregard for friendly & allied powers, that would settle

* In October the French entered Tuscany and occupied Florence and Leghorn. The Austrians looked on with complete indifference.

at once the character of this Gov^t & probably determine all her Allies to abandon her. I am doing every thing that is possible to obtain the expulsion of the French from Tuscany, & to prevent their penetrating further. In every step I take on this subject I state myself as speaking in the character of an Ally of Naples, the protection of which His Majesty is bound in duty to insist upon, & has a right to demand. There may be a little more delay than one would wish for the Emperor's dignity, but I flatter myself that Bellegarde will receive orders to attack Brune, if Tuscany is not soon evacuated. Bellegarde has demanded the immediate retreat of the French out of Tuscany in a very firm & peremptory tone, & Brune's answer has not yet been rec^d here.—I am, &c.,

(Signed) MINTO.

From Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

HEAD QUARTERS, VIENNA, *Nov.* 4, 1800.

SIR,—The Armistice expiring on the 4th, the Army marched on the 1st from its Cantonments with the intention of assembling upon the Mincio. On the March General Bellegarde was met by a French Adjutant of General Brune bringing a proposal that the Armistice should continue, as the Congress of Luneville was about to assemble. The Period of the Armistice is not yet arranged, but I fancy it will continue indefinitely with a notice of ten days before the recommencement of hostilities. I had hoped that the Evacuation of Tuscany would have been insisted upon. There never was, I believe, so insulting & so infamous a violation of all right & honour as that has been. But as you know very well, an Austrian General has never the power to act upon his own authority—a messenger was sent to Vienna with the news of this event for instructions. No answer has as yet been received. At the same time that General Bellegarde sent to arrange the period of the Armistice, the Officer was directed to say that the non-evacuation of Tuscany might be the consequence of the rupture of the Convention. This officer is not yet returned.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, 14*th Nov*r. 1800.

MY DEAR SIR,—In my last of the 1st inst. I left Mr. de Cobenzl on his journey from Augsbourg to Luneville. On his arrival at the latter place he found neither French nor English negotiators, but a warm invitation to Paris from Bonaparte. The affair of the armistice being urgent he determined to proceed, & arrived at Paris the 28th Octr. Previous, however, to his departure from Luneville he dispatch'd a messenger to Lord Grenville with an account of his motives for coming first to that town, & then of his going to Paris; & renewing under his hand the same assurances which he had given to me before his departure from Vienna. His language to Lord Grenville was so full & satisfactory on that head that it is impossible to entertain any apprehensions of a separate negotiation or peace. Accordingly on his arrival at Paris he proposed the renewal of the Armistice, & being told that there would be no difficulty in extending it to any period he chose, provided he enter'd immediately on a *separate* negotiation for peace, he answered with all the firmness & clearness that we could ourselves have wish'd, that the Emperor was determined to adhere to his engagement with England, & to treat only for a general peace in concert with his Majesty; and he refused to enter into any negotiation or discussion of that nature until Mr. Grenville should be present. The French answer'd that they would have consented to a joint negotiation, but that we had refused an armistice. I have already shewn you how that matter stands in my letter of the 1st Novr. Count Cobenzl then declared that if the prolongation of the armistice were refused on that account he should return to Luneville, & wait there either till an English Minister should join him, or till it was ascertain'd that no English minister was to come to the Congress, in which case he should retire from France. This was the state of affairs at the date of C. Cobenzl's first dispatch from Paris, viz. the 1st Novr.

Yesterday despatches of the 6th inst. were recd from C. Cobenzl. After every means of seduction & intimidation had been employ'd to induce him to treat separately,

& he had persisted in refusing it, he declared his resolution to return to Luneville & wait the arrival of an English Minister, or the final determination of France to refuse a joint negotiation, in which latter case he should withdraw himself altogether out of France. Bonaparte declared his resolution to denounce the armistice if Cobenzl persisted in the refusal to treat separately. In the meanwhile Joseph Bonaparte set out for Luneville at daybreak of the 6th, & Cobenzl was to set out in the course of the day. Bonaparte has kept his word as to the armistice. Moreau has already notified the recommencement of hostilities on the 28th inst.; & unless some overture from England should lead to a joint negotiation, a renewal of the War is to be expected. Cobenzl appears to have behaved with firmness, & hitherto this Court has acted up to its engagements on the subject of negotiation & peace. . . . . .
Believe me ever, &c. MINTO.

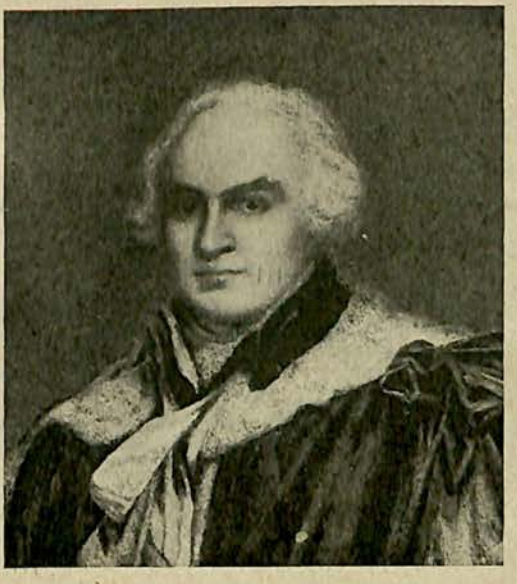
From the Hon. A. PAGET *to the* Earl of UXBRIDGE.

PALERMO, *1st Dec.* 1800.

MY DEAR FATHER,—You may easily conceive the embarassment and uneasiness of mind I have been labouring under for many months past, in consequence of the different messages which have reached me from you. I should not however mention this, were it not to assure you that nothing but extreme unhappiness, would have prevented my writing to you much oftener than I have done. I beseech you therefore not to allow my silence to make any unfavourable impression upon you. I have most truly explained the motive of it.

My servant returned here a few days ago and brought me letters from my Mother and Garthshere, which have been productive of much comfort & satisfaction to my mind by announcing to me your most kind and friendly intentions towards me. I can by no means convey to you the sense of gratitude I feel upon this occasion, it can only be equalled by the happiness I feel at being restored to your former affections.

I have written most fully to Garthshere some time ago, who can put you in possession of my sentiments with respect to my present situation. I stood in much need



HENRY, EARL OF UXBRIDGE

of hearing that both His Majesty and L^d. Grenville had expressed themselves favourably of me to you, as I had and continue to have every reason to apprehend the reverse. It is impossible that I can ever be of the smallest use, or gain the smallest credit here, but if my superiors are of a contrary opinion with respect to the former it is my duty to submit. I feel the more mortified at making these reflections as, previous to my departure, I *was led* to think that the presence of a new English Minister might produce a change in the internal affairs of these Countries. Whether I have not the required abilities or address I know not, but certain it is I have been most grossly deceived in the calculation I had made. Nothing ever was in so wretched a state as every thing both here and at Naples, & I see no chance of expecting the smallest Reform or Good. You would be astonished if I entered into some few details, which however I will reserve for a safer and better opportunity.

To-morrow I take my departure for Malta in the Northumberland. I have business there, & I cannot resist going to see Edward. He is you know for Egypt, but this is meant to be a great secret, therefore if it should really be one, pray don't give me up. This is a bad time of the year, & that is a dreadful Coast, I wish only that they were safe on shore. Lord Keith complains to me of being very ill. I got letters from him in the Night by a Cutter, two days from Mahon, an extraordinary passage. I shall find him at Malta.—Good bye my dear Father, pray believe me, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 22.] PALERMO, 2 *Dec^r.* 1800.

MY LORD,—. . . . It was my duty to acquaint Y^r L^p that application has at different times been made to me by this Gov^t for the co-operation of a British Land Force for the defence of the Kingdom of Naples, but I have at no time thrown out the smallest expectation that such a request could be complied with by His Majesty. I have on the contrary always recommended them to consider the operations of the Austrian Army in the North as the

best protection to the South of Italy. I have however not failed to communicate your Lordship's observations upon that Subject to H.S.M$^{y's}$ Ministers.

I have found Gen^{l} Acton apparently much vexed since the receipt of the dispatches brought by P. Castelcicala's * Messenger. It appears that Yr L^{p} in a conference held with that Minister had accused the Court of Naples of having been instrumental in creating the disunion which has of late subsisted between the two Imperial Courts.

This is a subject upon which I have had very frequent discussions with General Acton, having come into this country prepossessed with the idea that the Conduct of the Italian Princes† in general had in that respect been highly detrimental to the Common Cause. Your Lordship will do me the Justice to believe that it cannot be my wish to intrude an opinion upon this matter, but I feel myself in some measure bound to say that, according to the information I have been enabled to collect upon it, this Court has never designedly done anything which could tend to disunite the Two Emperors. It becomes perhaps my duty to state that I have received the most solemn assurances to that effect from H.S.M$^{y's}$ Ministers. At the same time I fear that the Duc de Serracapriola has not always been so considerate in his language at Petersburg as he might have been.

The above accusation then is supposed to have been made originally by the Baron de Thugut, with a view of representing the Conduct of this Court inimical to the system of General Alliance adopted by H.M$^{y's}$ government & consequently of alienating from it the protection & Friendship of His M^{y}.

Since my arrival here I have used every exertion in my power to remove the distrust & jealousy entertained by this Court of the Emperor's views in Italy, which has occasioned many extremely unpleasant discussions. Lord Minto has been authorised, & has done me the Honor to transmit to me for the information & satisfaction of this Court such assurances from the Emperor as would be sufficient to remove common Prejudices. But your

* Succeeded Marquis de Circello as Neapolitan Ambassador in London. See Mr. Paget's letter of Dec. 23.

† See Mr. Paget's letter of Dec. 23.

Lordship will imagine that the Impressions above described are not calculated to encrease the mutual confidence of these Courts. I trust however (& hope that I am not assuming too much by taking to myself some share in that transaction) that the conduct & Language of the Marquis de Gallo at Vienna is entirely conformable to His Majesty's Wishes.

The departure of the Prince Royal for Naples having been so frequently fixed only to be postponed, I continue to consider as an event highly problematical. It is however now said that H.R. Highness will certainly go after Christmas, & that H.S.M^{y} will follow him in the month of April.—I have, &c., (Signed) A. PAGET.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

MALTA, *Dec^{r}. 18th*, 1800.

DEAR PAGET—. . . . . Of the affairs of Malta I know nothing they are in the Hands of the Gen^{l} and I am glad of it He had instructions of which I was Ignorant until after the Capitulation, I am glad we have the Island Naples could not have kept it and the other* is quite Mad

Of Wilott I know little He is one of your Diplomatic Generals and who has an immense sum of British money His conduct has appeared to me to want explaination and I would not entrust Elbe to Him unless I was sure the Garrison were all Neapolitan and to *be* depended upon, there is a Chev^{lr} Imbert of the party who *I* know, Elbe and Longana are Strong, those are some Piedmontese who could be trusted and the inhabitants hate the french, if Wilott goes let the King send some of His Ships

I feel much obliged by Actons attention in giving leave for our Supplies to come off the Island of yourself I say not a word because I know your Zeal and Love for the Nation

We had three ships with troops in 21 days from Plymouth Parliament met, I have letters from Elgin and one from the Kimichan Pacha, we must get the french out of Egypt or the Turks will make Peace with them the Russians are in the Bosphorus it is reported the Admiral dare not go home because he did not take Malta . . . . I am, &c. (Signed) KEITH.

* The Czar.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord MINTO.

PALERMO, 23^{d} *Dece*^{r}. 1800.

MY LORD,—. . . . . In addition to what Y^{r} L^{p} will find in my lett^{r} to the office of this date I feel it incumbent upon me to inform you, that P. Castelcicala attributes the Insinuations thrown out by L^{d} Grenville against this Court to Y^{r} L^{p}. You will easily imagine that this Govern^{t} feels itself somewhat hurt at being accused of being instrumental in creating the misunderstand^{g} wh^{ch} has unfortunately taken place between the Two Imperial Courts—& I confess that I was much surprized to find Gen^{l} Acton rather disposed to give credit to the surmise of P. Castelcicala ; in saying this, I can very safely take upon me to assure Y. L. that I have removed every unfavorable impression wh^{ch} similar suggestions were no doubt calculated to make on the mind of H.S.M.

No one is more fully aware than myself of the weak, impolitic, & I may say mischivious motives w^{ch} guided the Conduct of such of the Italian Princes as took upon themselves to remonstrate to the Emperor of Russia against the Court of Vienna. But I will fairly own to you My Lord that I think that Justice will not allow the King of Naples to be lumped with the others—not that he would not be glad to see a body of 100,000 Russians in Italy ready to oppose the aggrandisement of any Power in it—not that he does not prefer a Close connection with Russia to a Close connection with Austria—not finally out of regard to the Court of Vienna—but as a matter of calculation I should be inclined to acquit him.

I really believe that as it is the very first object of this Govern^{t} to preserve the Friendship of Great Britain, it would not risk the loss of that Friendship by acting injuriously towards the principal ally of the Power upon whom nearly its whole dependence & future safety are placed. Nor do I think that this Court is quite insensible to the Idea that their Intrigues against the Court of Vienna at Petersburg would be much more likely to draw upon them the Vengeance of Austria than to acquire to them the Protection of Russia.

Independent of these Questions of Policy, I have many

reasons for thinking that that Court has at no time either by remonstrances or in any other way been designedly instrumental in alienating the mind of the E. of Russia from the Interest of Austria. I know the Duke Serracapriola of old. He is more Russian than Neapolitan, and has, I will ans^{r} for it, given in to all the abuse wh^{ch} was unquestionably heaped upon the Austrians during the first moments of Zeal & Ill humour. He has however received a hint upon that subject which I trust may be of use to him in future.

I cannot dismiss this subject without informing Y. L. that Gen^{l} Acton in his ans^{r} to Prince Castelcicala says, that he is too well acquainted with Y. L.'^{s} character & motives not to be persuaded that you have never either made or received impressions with respect to this Court so evidently disadvantageous to it.

As to Prince Catelcicala himself, He is a man of whom I have no hesitation in saying that I have the very worst opinion possible. I confess fairly to Y. L. that altho' I have never represented it in that light to Lord Grenville I consider his appointment as an Insult to H.M. Why was he sent to England? not because the Marquis de Circello had been remiss in any the most trivial part of his public conduct; the handsome manner in which his services have been rewarded proves the Contrary indeed; not therefore because it was thought that P. Castelcicala could fill the situation better. No, none of those or any reasons of this nature.

He is a species of Refugee, for his public conduct during the time he filled a situation und^{r} the Govern^{t} of that Country had rendered him so obnoxious, he had become so execrated by the Neapolitans, that he dare not return there. It became necessary therefore to dispose of him otherwise, & this task was undertaken by Her S.M. who, I suppose to mark her *reconnoisance* to the British Nation, chose that man to represent Her at the Court of its sovereign, & this point was carried contrary to the wish, contrary to the opinion of both the K. of N. & Gen^{l} Acton. Of his private character I will, for Y. L. sake as well as my own, say nothing.

I was considerably vexed to learn from Y. L. that Marq^{s} de Gallo had been instructed to press for the

admission of a Neapolitan Minister to treat as a principal at the Congress of Luneville, after what had passed between Gen[l] Acton & myself upon the subject. I have not failed to represent to that Minister my Ideas upon this apparent inconsistency. He has informed me that H.S.M. had given his consent to treat thro' the English Plenip[y] in case the Congress had been limited to Great Britain, Austria, & France; but that if it was to be extended, as He had understood, by admitting Spain & Holland, H.S.M. in that case pretended that not only His dignity but His Interest required that he should appear as a principal there. I begged them to be persuaded that the King could never wish either thro' Y. L. or myself to engage H.S.M. to consent to a measure in any way derogating either to His dignity or Interests, and that I did not apprehend that what was now proposed, at all tended that way—that if Circumstances should render it necessary to admit the Ministers of the Powers he had named to the Congress the same reasons might still exist for wishing not to make the Congress still more general by receiving a Sixth Plenipotentiary—& that the Interest of H.S.M. would be equally taken care of by the English Minister whether Spain & Holland were or were not parties.

Gen[l] Acton talked a good deal of the views of aggrandizement of Spain in Italy.* I observed that my observations produced some ill humour. H.S.M., he said, was a perfect judge how to act for his own dignity &c., &c.; he concluded by saying that that was a question wh[ch] would be settled at London & Vienna. I of course did not press the matter further, & I think it right to make Y. L. acquainted of what has passed upon it. I have not mentioned the subject to L[d] Grenville, wishing to leave it to Y. L. to state what has passed, or not, as you may think proper. . . . .

I have all along & more than ever enter into Y. L's Ideas contained in y[r] Lett[r] to Mr. Jackson with a Copy of which you honoured me, respecting the very great impropriety of crying down the Conduct of the C[t] of Vienna. If in his wisdom H.M. thinks proper to Ally Himself closely with Austria, it becomes just as much the (duty) of

* The proposal had been made to transfer the Duke of Parma, a Spanish Bourbon, and married to a Spanish princess, to Tuscany.

Ministers at other Courts as at that of the Court of Vienna itself to hold a language conformable to that system. I ever made that rule for myself independent of my private opinion that it is owing to the exertions of the Court of Vienna that the whole Continental part of Europe has been hitherto saved from devastation & revolution.

I have not heard from Malta Lately, but a Vessel which arrived here yesterday reports that the first division of the Expedition had failed.—I am, &c., &c.

A. PAGET.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, 23*rd Dec*r. 1800.

MY DEAR SIR,—The Arch Duke's * return to the Army gave the most lively satisfaction to the troops, but it has not hitherto appear'd whether any material improvement has been made by his presence in the spirit & behaviour of the army. I conceive, indeed, that the A. Duke may not think it advisable to hazard any decisive or material action in the present circumstances, but as the capital itself will be fought for whenever the stand is made, it seems advantageous to draw the enemy deeper into our country & more remote from support & resources, while his numbers must be diminish'd every march, & the Austrian army essentially reinforced. When the armies approach Vienna the Austrians will receive an augmentation of at least from 20 to 25 m. troops by the garrison of Vienna & the Hungarian levies alone; without taking the Mass, or any description of volunteers into the account. The Bohemian Levies, which amount to upwards of 20,000 men, are also assembling in considerable force at Bondwitz which will necessarily commit Moreau still more if he should advance with such a body on his flank. In the meanwhile the events of the last days give no reason to expect that the A. Duke will fall back towards Vienna. The Queen of Naples is strongly urged to return while there is leisure and tranquillity. I presume the Empress & the Princesses will pursue the

* The Archduke Charles was recalled on the Archduke John's failure at Hohenlinden, Dec. 3.

same course. But it is with much satisfaction I can say that I have every reason to believe the Emperor, with such of his brothers as are of a competent age, will shew himself in his proper place at the head of his Army & of his people; leaving nevertheless the military command with the Arch-Duke Charles.

The new convention with Naples* was sign'd yesterday, & I really consider that transaction as the strongest evidence that could be given, both of the zeal & judgment of the Marquis de Gallo, & of the fair & favourable intentions of B^n^ Thugut towards His Sicilian Majesty.

The situation of affairs is such, & still more the universal feelings & temper of this country, that measures for an armistice are thought indispensably necessary, & I conceive that orders either were dispatch'd last night or will be so this morning to C. Cobenzl, to sign preliminaries of a separate peace, if an armistice cannot be obtained on other terms. The conduct of Austria has been so loyal thro' out these anxious times, & they have so recently incurr'd the danger that is now pressing upon them for the purpose of maintaining their engagements with his Majesty, that I should think it both unjust & ungrateful to complain of any measures which in this extreme case necessity may dictate for their preservation. It is not that I should consider Austria as reduced to such an extremity if I were to pronounce only on the real state of her means & resources; but with an army which will not face the enemy, Austria is in reality without an army; & with a publick & People from top to bottom & from one end of the Empire to the other preferring the real subjugation of their country to the inconvenience & exertion of the contest, the Austrian Government is fairly constrain'd, & has no choice left.

Our affairs with Russia wear an unpromising aspect. Our Gov^t^ is desirous of avoiding extremities, but begin to feel that the Emperor means war & waits only for a favourable moment to strike.† They wish to avoid aggression, but would at the same time put our officers

* An engagement entered into at Vienna that Austria should make common cause with Naples. See Mr. Paget's despatch of Jan. 25, 1801.

† Russia had formed an alliance with Sweden, Denmark, and Prussia, and the convention for reviving the Armed Neutrality was signed Dec. 26.

naval & Military on their guard. If L^d^ Grenville has not sent you instructions on this head, I would submit it to you whether you might not convey this *confidential* intimation to Malta, & to such of his Majesty's officers as are within your reach.—I beg you to believe me, &c.,

MINTO.

From Lord ELGIN *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *Dec.* 27, 1800.

There can be no doubt of its being the object of Buonaparte to cross the Adriatick & attack Turkey from thence. This must in some degree depend on our success against Egypt. For with a strong naval force in that sea, It would be too hazardous for the French to attempt crossing, & finding (if they did land) their communications cut off.

But a new embarassement has arisen in the conduct of Russia. You know, that a fresh Embargo has been laid upon our Shipping there,* not in consequence of any dissatisfaction given by communications from our Government, but by the first & unexplained circumstance of our capture of Malta. A step so violent taken at such a period, leads to every apprehension, and if supported by the Emperor, God knows to what difficulties the Porte may be driven. Hitherto it is impossible for me to have had any hints from home for my guidance under such unaccountable occurrences. But the connexion in which Russia stands with England in regard to Turkey is upon such a system, so inoffensive to all parties & so beneficial to all, That I cannot allow myself to dread any material change of measures, upon any ground of policy. And yet, It is expected by the publick. Indeed already The Russian Ships hesitate on exposing themselves to meet English Men of War, dreading Hostilities, & at all events reprisals. The Russian Minister has, I'm led to believe, made an overture to the Porte on the late decision of the Emperor, in the view of justifying it at our expence; and it w^d^ appear, That the interests of the King of Naples are represented as agreeing with his on this matter. I,

* Paul, as Grand Master and assignee of France, demanded Malta: on the refusal of England he in November laid an embargo on English ships.

of course, let the business take its progress, perfectly satisfied that our proceeding has been no less consistent with our engagements, & with a strict sense of propriety, than highly beneficial to the prosecution of the war, & equally prejudicial to the plans of the Enemy. I trust in God we shall retain it, nor take any measure untill the conclusion of the war regarding the place in the world the most difficult to dispose of,—Believe me, &c.,

(Signed) ELGIN.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, 31*st Dec*r. 1800.

MY DEAR SIR,—My last Letters of the 24th inst. will have prepared you for everything that is bad. On the expiration of the suspension of arms on the 24th inst. the French pass'd the Enns & push'd the Austrians back to Strengberg. The enemy continued to advance & the Austrians to retire in great disorder. In the meanwhile the Emperor's answer to the demands made by Moreau when the Arch Duke first proposed an armistice was rec^{d} by the Arch Duke. Moreau had demanded that the Tyrol should be delivered up to him, & he had also demanded that the Emperor should treat for peace separately from Great Britain. The Emperor peremptorily rejected the first demand; but found himself at length constrain'd to give way on the second, & he authorized the Arch-Duke to declare that the Emperor would immediately enter on a separate negotiation for peace. By this time the French were at Hemmelbach & the Austrians at St. Polton. The A. Duke immediately empower'd Gen^{l} Grunn & Col^{l} Weyrotter to treat with Gen^{l} Moreau conformably to these instructions. The result was another armistice of 30 days & 15 days notice, more ignominious & ruinous than all the preceding disgraces. I am sorry that I cannot for want of time & hands send you a copy; but the Marquis de Gallo sends a copy to Gen^{l} Acton who will no doubt communicate it to you. The Tyrol is not given up to the enemy in direct terms, the stipulation being that it shall be occupied by the troops of neither nation; but all the fortified points are put into the hands of the French.

The inhabitants are to be disarm'd & the line of demarcation gives to the enemy immediate access to that country. The fortresses of Wurtzbourg & Braunau are deliver'd up to the French—the line of demarcation is as bad as all the rest. This Armistice does not extend to Italy, where a separate armistice must be made between Bellegarde & Brune. It is some satisfaction that the most positive orders are gone to Bellegarde to consent to no armistice which does not include Naples; or at the least which does not establish the demarcation settled by the convention of Castiglione, with the condition that the French shall not pass the line to the Southward. It is stipulated that neither the Austrians nor the French army of the Rhine shall debouch into Italy; but I fear there is no stipulation which prevents what the French call the Army of the Grisons (that commanded by Macdonald) from marching to reinforce Brune. The nature of the country & the season, are the only securities against that measure. In dwelling on the unfortunate nature of this convention, it is not my intention to pronounce for or against the propriety or rather the necessity of agreeing to it. If we turn from the lamentable conditions of the armistice to the situation of the Austrian army & of its Government at the moment of negotiating this armistice, we shall perhaps rather deplore than condemn what has been done. With an army inferior by half in numbers to the enemy, reduced by fatigue & hardship to a state of wretchedness which had totally deprived them of courage, & had even created a dangerous & alarming spirit of mutiny—with an army, in short, which fairly declared their determination not to fight, & which had not bodily strength left to do their duty if they had been disposed, what could the Arch Duke advise? With the Archduke, in whose presence the last hopes had been placed, declaring that it was impossible that the troops should face the enemy or make a stand even under the walls of Vienna, with the panick of this great city, the clamour of the publick, & alarm & importunity still nearer the throne, & with such a stake as Vienna depending, I know not who would have taken upon him to advise the rejection even of these terms. With regard to the condition in which we are principally

interested, I mean the separate negotiation, I felt it impossible to remonstrate against this concession, in circumstances which render'd the Emperor's adherence to his engagements in that respect physically impossible. This court has shewn as much firmness as could be required in its fidelity to our alliance. C. Cobenzl has been perfectly steady in rejecting to the last separate negotiation, & hostilities have been resumed on that single point. The Emperor has risk'd everything, & has in the issue incurr'd the calamities which now press upon him, in his attempt to fulfill his engagements with G. Britain. I cannot yet know the sentiments of my superiors on this question, but the experience I have of their justice, candour, & generosity in their transactions with other nations convinces me that the only sentiment on this occasion will be regret, & that there will be no diminution of cordiality & confidence between the two Courts. The result is that Austria is now treating, or on the point of treating, for a separate peace. In these circumstances it is impossible not to think with great comfort of the engagements contracted so recently by Mr. de Gallo's convention at Vienna to make common cause with Naples. The peace of Naples must be consider'd as a necessary consequence of the Emperor's, & I should presume that all our Gov^{t} would desire on that point would be the rejection of articles directly hostile to G. Britain, such as *Alliance* with France—exclusion of English ships from the ports of Naples & Sicily—refusal of Supplies to Malta &c.—or accession to the new doctrine concerning neutral navigation.* But in all this I speak without any authority from home, & must expressly declare that in the expression of these sentiments I am only using the privilege of a friend by hazarding a private & confidential opinion on a point on which I cannot possibly have any right to deliver an official one.

The outrages committed against England at Petersburgh † have determined our Court to act with vigour in

* The league of the Baltic Powers in 1780 and again in 1801, protested against the abuse of the right of search, and laid down the following principles, all of which have been adopted since the Treaty of Paris, 1855: (1) Free ships make free goods; (2) the flag is to be the cover of the cargo; (3) no paper blockades are to be recognised.

† Three hundred English vessels had been seized, and their crews dispersed

procuring some suitable satisfaction. Lord Grenville probably informs you of the resolutions taken by his Majesty, both with regard to Russia & the rest of the Northern confederacy. They will have to choose between immediate War, & the relinquishment of their new pretensions.

Measures are taking here for improving the defence of Vienna. Strangers are still obliged to retire, & preparation is still making for the possible event of a renewal of hostilities. A Peace however is no doubt the natural expectation in the present circumstances. I shall continue to keep you inform'd & beg you to believe me ever My Dear Sir, &c., MINTO.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 1.] PALERMO, *January* 7, 1801.

I have the Honour to enclose the Copy of a Note I have received from the Russian Minister with my Answer, which will I trust be approved of by Your Lordship. Nothing more has passed officially between us upon that subject.

An overture has been made by the Emperor of Russia to H.S.M^{y}, inviting Him to declare without reserve what are his views with respect to Peace, and at the same time offering to mediate for Him. In answer to this Communication, H.S.M^{y} has ordered His Minister at Petersburg to give a fair and unreserved statement of His situation and the nature of His Engagements towards His other Allies, which do not allow him to separate Himself from the Common Cause. This Answer which amounts to a refusal of the offer made by the Emperor of Russia, is as Your L^{p} will imagine, couched in terms the most flattering to His Imperial Majesty.

Independent of the above overture which cannot be considered as particularly friendly to the Powers engaged in the contest, I can plainly discover that the E. of Russia is not quite satisfied at the predilection shown by this Court to its present System of Alliance, and among other things the Mission of the Marquis de Gallo at Vienna is a circumstance to which He shows himself to be not quite

in the interior of Russia; the goods of English merchants and moneys owed to them were confiscated Nov. 22.

indifferent. In general I have some reasons for thinking that His Imperial Majesty would wish to assume a certain tone of Authority at this Court, which however will under no circumstances be submitted to.

It is now generally understood that the Prince Royal and General Acton will set out for Naples about the 20th Ins[t]. A Neapolitan 74 Gun Ship and a Frigate are here to convey them.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Chevalier ITALINSKY *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

PALERME, *le 6 Janvier*, 1801.

Le Chevalier Italinsky, Ministre Plenipotentiaire de S. M. L'Empereur de toutes les Russies a l'honneur de faire ses complimens à Son Excellence Monsieur Arthur Paget, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plenipotentiaire de S.M. Britannique, et de lui faire part, que Sa Majesté Imperiale a donné ordre à Son General d'infanterie Monsieur le Baron de Sprengporten de se transporter à Malte avec des troupes pour y mettre une garnison conformement à ce qui à été arreté par la Convention de l'année 1798 * conclue entre S.M. L'Empereur et Leurs Majestés le Roi de la Grande Bretagne et le Roi des deux Siciles. Comme la dite Convention est l'éffet des intentions droites et loyales de chacune detrois Puissances Alliées, et qu'elle atteste solennellement, qu'Elles desiroient l'événement de la prise de la Valette sans avoir aucune idée de conquête, ou d'interêt particulier, le Chevalier est persuadé, que le General Baron Sprengporten à son arrivée à Malte trouvera les Commandans Britanniques munis d'ordres rélatifs à sa Commission, et parfaitement d'accord avec les arrangemens énoncés dans la dite Convention.

Le Chevalier d'Italinsky profite de cette occasion pour rénouveller à Son Excellence Monsieur Arthur Paget l'assurance de la consideration la plus distinguée.

* December 1798: the beginning of Pitt's Second Coalition. In Jan. 1799 Paul had named Prince Wolkonsky (now commanding at Corfu) as his commandant in Malta, then occupied by the French. In 1800 M. de Sprengporten had been named Governor.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to the* Chevalier ITALINSKY.

PALERME, 7 *Janvier*, 1801.

Le Soussigné Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plenitentiaire de Sa Majesté Britannique a très bien reçu la Note officielle que S.E. Mons^r. le Chevalier d'Italinsky Ministre Plenipotentiaire de Sa Majesté Imperiale de toutes les Russies lui a fait l'honneur de lui addresser, en date d'hier, dans laquelle il lui fait part que S. M^té. Imp^le a donné ordre à Son Général d'Infanterie M^r. le Baron de Springporten de se transporter à Malte avec des troupes pour y mettre une garnison conformément à ce qui a été arrêté par la convention de 1798 conclue entre Leurs Majestés Le Roi de La G. Bretagne, L'Empereur de Russie, et Le Roi des deux Siciles.

Le Soussigné demeure avec plaisir d'accord que la dite convention (qu'il croit Verbale) est l'effet des intentions droites et loyales de chacune des trois Puissances, mais il est evident en même tems, qu'elle presuppose la cooperation des mêmes trois Puissances pour la reddition des Fortresses de L'Ile de Malte alors au pouvoir de L'ennemi.

L'accomplissement de cette convention, n'est donc pas borné à l'occupation seule de la Vallette par les troupes des trois Puissances, et on ne sauroit se dissimuler, que si pour lors c'etoit l'intention des Souverains respectifs d'y mettre une garnison composée d'un nombre égal de leurs troupes, cette intention etoit l'effet de la conviction que chacun employeroit ses Moyens pour arracher aux Francois la possession d'une Fortresse dont la tranquillité et le bien être de cette partie de l'Europe dépendoit. Telle fut la seule consideration, ecartée de toute idée d'aggrandissement, ou d'intérêt particulier, qui engagea Sa M^té Britannique à subvenir aux Frais, & à employer les moyens nécessaires à cette grande entreprise.

Si donc cette convention avoit pour objet la cooperation des trois puissances, tant pour effectuer la reddition que pour l'occupation de la Vallette, et si pendant le cours d'un siége, qui par sa durée & par la persévérance des Asiégans est sans exemple, Sa M^te. B^que a été privée de la presence des Forces de S. M. I^le. malgré qu'elles fussent à porté de lui prêter tout le secours que l'on pouvoit attendre de leur Bravoure & de leur experience, il est

notoire que les stipulations principales de la convention n'ont pas été reciproquement accomplies—Le Soussigné laisse au propre jugement, et à la candeur du Ministre de S.M. Imp^le^ la faculté de prononcer par laquelle des deux Puissances cette tache glorieuse a été entreprise & achevée.

On ne peut donc douter du sens de la Convention, elle renferme deux objets distincts, la reddition & l'occupation de l'isle de Malte. L'accomplissement du premier donne le droit au second.

C'est penetré de la Justice de ces observations et en attendant quelque arrangement ultérieure, que le Soussigné se trouve obligé d'exposer à M^r^. le Chevalier d'Italinsky le doute ou il est que les Commandans Britanniques à Malte soit munis d'ordres relatifs à la Commission de M^r^. le Général de Springporten.

Le Soussigné prie S.E. Mons^r^ le Ministre Plenipotentiaire de S.M. Imp^le^ d'agréer l'assurance de son Respect & de Son Estime. (Signé) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 1.] PALERMO, 15^th^ *Jan^ry^*. 1801.

MY LORD,—I have received complaints both verbally and in writing from His Sicilian Majesty's Ministers respecting certain transactions which have lately happened at Malta under the direction of the British Commanders.

The Principal Causes of Complaint are, That it has been declared to the Magistrates in that Island by the persons exercising the English Gov^t^ that His B. M^y^ has put Malta under his Protection, that the ecclesiastical tribunals are abolished, that the Clergy were no longer to consider themselves as dependant upon their former Metropolitan (who is a Sicilian Arch-Bishop) that the Pratequi Hense (?) Boats were to hoist English instead of Neapolitan Colours, that English Governors & Garrison were sent to Citta Vecchia & Gozzo hitherto occupied exclusively by Neapolitans—& Finally that Corsairs from the Coast of Barbary had been admitted into the Ports & Creeks of Malta to the manifest prejudice of the Interest & Commerce of H.S.M^y's^ Subjects.

That similar operations seemed to indicate nothing less

than an effectual Capture of the Island to the total exclusion of His S.M^{y}—a circumstance which had not failed to create the most unpleasant sensations in H.S.M^{y}'s mind.

The Above is the Substance of the Notes I have received, the blame attached to these innovations is attributed to the Officers Command^{s} at Malta, His Majesty's Gov^{t} being expressly exempted from any intention of giving any uneasiness to the K of Naples.

In my Answer I have briefly referred H.S.M^{y}'s Ministers to the explanations which I had already given them in obedience to the orders contained in your Lordship's Dispatch of the 17th Oct^{r}.

It was indeed impossible for me to enter into any detail upon the Subject, having been kept in the most profound State of Ignorance as to every arrangement which has been made at Malta.

I know that H.S.M^{y} feels himself extremely hurt upon this occasion, not so much in consequence of what has been done, as at the manner of doing it. For altho' it is indeed obvious that the facts complained of, & the conclusion drawn from them, bear no resemblance to the declaration I had made to His Ministers, namely that it was not His My's Intention by the temporary occupation of Malta as a military position during the War to prejudge the Question of the future disposition to be made of the Island at the Conclusion of a General Peace—

Yet I am authorized to say that H.S.M^{y} would willingly have acceded to any arrangement whatever respecting Malta which might have been most agreeable to His Majesty, provided His M$^{y's}$ wishes had been made known to Him, it is therefore clear that the mode which has been adopted of conducting the affairs in that Island is what has caused so much discontent & uneasiness to H.S.M^{y}.—I have, &c., (Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. ARTHUR PAGET *to the* Countess of UXBRIDGE.

PALERMO, 25 *Jan^{ry}*. 1801.

Part of this Royal Family is at length going to Naples, but as the King cannot be brought to do so wise and

indeed necessary a thing, I might of course remain here with Him. I hear that Lady Hamilton is moving Heaven & Earth to be received at Court, but I trust without any chance of succeeding; pray don't let that be, if you can help it, for there never was such a —— Do me the justice to acknowledge that hitherto I have said nothing about her, tho' I know enough to fill Volumes.

Entre nous, I can tell you that I have a sort of leave of Absence from L[d] G—but I feel that I must not avail myself of it, tho' in fact I have little or nothing to do here. If I should be as unwell the next, as I was the last summer, I must try Naples. Gen[l] Acton has offered me a most delightful place he has about ten miles from Naples, where the air is perfect.

I have the satisfaction of hearing of the Prince's kindness about me from everybody but himself.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 2.] PALERMO, *Jan[y]*. 25, 1801.

MY LORD,—The Departure of the Hereditary Prince and Princess for Naples at length takes place this day. His R.H. will be accompanied by Gen[l] Acton and has the most extensive power for the Government of that Country entrusted to him by H.S.My.

I must own to Yr. Lp. that I hope more good than I augur from the presence of the Hereditary Prince in that Country. The wish and the cry of the People always has been and continues to be for the return of the Sovereign. I therefore much doubt of their expectations being satisfied by the appearance of the Heir to the Crown. At the same time, much benefit cannot fail to result from the changes and reforms which will necessarily follow this alteration in the Government.

A circumstance has however happened which could not have taken place at a more unseasonable moment. I some time ago acquainted Yr Lordship that the Emperor of Russia had sent an order for withdrawing his Troops and Ships from Naples,* and that His Minister here had, at the strong solicitations of this Court, taken upon himself to suspend their departure, a step which received

* See despatch of Jan. 7.

H.S.My's Sanction, but three days afterwards He sent an order (without any communication upon the subject to His Minister here) to the General commanding his troops at Naples immediately to embark them, and proceed to the Black Sea. This order has just been received, and has as Yr Lp. may imagine occasioned a considerable degree of dissatisfaction and uneasiness here. This defection indeed may have the most serious consequences, for one cannot conceal the danger to be apprehended from such a people no longer over-awed by the presence of a Foreign Garrison, and who have neither confidence in nor dread of their own Army. It is not easy to imagine how under all the difficult circumstances of the moment H.S.My. can resist going Himself to Naples, but this is a point which it has been totally impossible to carry. It is now said that He will after making the tour of Sicily, pass over there from Messina in the month of April.

I have learnt confidentially from Gen[l] Acton a circumstance which, if there is any truth in it, is certainly most unpleasant and alarming for His Sicilian Majesty. It is suspected that the King of Sardinia (who as Yr. Lp. knows is now at Naples) actually entertains views of acquiring that Kingdom for Himself, and that His Minister Mr. de Marsan has been sent to the Courts of Vienna and Berlin with directions to proceed from thence to Paris to propose the cession of Piedmont to the French, for which He is to be put in possession of the Kingdom of Naples. The above intimation has been sent him both from Rome and Vienna (tho' not by the Marquis de Gallo) and some reports from Naples rather tend to confirm these suspicions. It is even conjectured that the E. of Russia may have tacitly favoured this design, but that unwilling to take a part in the execution of it, He has given a sudden order for withdrawing his troops from the scene. It is scarcely necessary to make any comment on the effect which even the bare suspicion of a project in it's nature so unjust, preposterous and extravagant, has produced on the mind of H.S.My and His Minister. But upon the grounds of this information which appear rather slight, I have recommended to Gen[l] Acton to proceed cautiously and with circumspection.

Since I had last the Honor of writing to Yr. Lp. the convention lately signed by the Austrian Minister and the Marquis de Gallo has been received here. The Principal object of it cannot but be approved here, tho' there are two points in it which appear highly objectionable to H.S.My. The first is in (I believe) the 3rd Article, which if I recollect right says that H.S.My. *verra sans jalousie* the acquisitions made by the Emperor of the Legations—that expression is much disapproved of. The next objection is made to the wording of part of the 4th Article by which H.S.My binds himself to employ at Foreign Courts only such persons whose principles are known to favour the system of the alliance with Austria. This Article in addition to its being considered as hostile to the independence of this Court, is conceived to be meant by the Marquis de Gallo as personal to Prince Castelcicala, the Duke de Serracapriola, and Prince Belmonte who [*unfinished*]

From Mr. Thomas Jackson *to the* Hon. A. Paget.

Rome, *Jan^ry. 27th*, 1801.

The Armistice for Italy between Generals Brune and Bellegarde is settled and concluded.

The French are to occupy Ferrara, Ancona, Legnago, Peschiera, Verona and Sermione.

Mantua remains with the Austrians until the Peace on the same Conditions as Ulm was occupied at the time of the 1st Armistice with Moreau.

The Austrian Army retires behind the Tagliamento and the French Army comes up to the Livenza, the Country between the two Rivers to be neutral.

In this Armistice I cannot learn that either Rome or Naples are mentioned. I understand that Gen^l. Damas* has tried to be included in it, tho' it cannot be doubted that the French will ask very high terms, perhaps they may even by this time be granted, I have no certain

* Count Roger de Damas, an emigré who in every country fought the armies of the French Republic; 1793-4 under Clerfayt, 1795-8 under Condé; in 1798 he commanded, along with Mack, the Neapolitan army. The Queen of Naples ultimately made him head of the military department and he was active in reorganising the army. In 1805 Napoleon demanded his dismissal or expulsion.

notions to go upon, and what little I have said is almost wholly conjecture.

From Mr. T. JACKSON *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

ROME, 30 *Jan*^{y}. 1801.

MY DEAR SIR,—I did myself the pleasure of writing to you on Tuesday last ack^{g}. yours of the 15th Ins^{t}. and informing you of the Italian Armistice and the other news of the day. The motive of my troubling you now is on an affair which much more nearly regards the immediate interests of our country. The Neapolitan Troops not being included in the Armistice between Generals Bellegarde and Brune a negociation for that purpose is now on foot between Generals Damas and Murat; the latter is at Florence and there have been several officers going and coming between them for some days past. I am not yet acquainted with the basis on which they are treating but I can inform you with certainty of the following points.

1°. That the Emperor of Russia is Mediator between France and Naples: a Russian Commissary, called *Levarchoff*, is arrived here, having passed through the french Army and even resided some days at Florence; he announced his approach to Gen^{l}. Damas, asking Passports & an Escort. The pretext of his going to Naples is to carry the Russian orders to His Sicilian Majesty.

2°. That Naples will have to choose between Russia and England. (N.B.—On this you may fully rely.)

3°. That one of the demands will be shutting the Ports of Naples to the British Flag, and that this demand is supported by the Russian Commissary.

This is all I know of the actual state of this very serious affair, and it is a great deal too much. I do not pretend to foresee how all this will terminate but it is evident that the French can only be prevented by great sacrifices from advancing, and I confess my belief that the sacrifices will be made and that they will advance after all.—Believe me to be most sincerely & faithfully yours,

THOMAS JACKSON.

From Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

HEAD QUARTERS, UDINE, *Feb* 2^{d}, 1801.

Major Keir will inform you that the French have detached a corps said to consist of 25,000 men under Gen^{l}. Murat towards Naples. I confess I do not see how the Neapolitans can resist such a force. The utter improbability of the War between Austria and France continuing puts all hope of salvation for Naples out of the Question. I have just seen an Officer who left Vienna on the 26th of Jan^{y} and then the Preliminaries of Peace were not signed. The Austrian Army in Germany is incapable of making resistance. There only remain 30,000 men of the original Army—they have been joined by 20,000 of the Hungarian Insurrection and the same number of the Bohemian. The latter is much the best, but I understand no very great reliance is to be placed upon the success of the exertions of either. The Archduke Charles is doing every thing possible to animate the Army, which I understand is not found remarkably easy. He has had recourse to an expedient which has never yet been tried, the efficacy of which in many other cases has succeeded well enough. The order arrived yesterday for a month's gratis *gage* to be given to both officers and men of both armies. If you have any communication with Edward pray remember me kindly to him.—Y^{r} Hum^{b} Serv^{t}, W. BENTINCK.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, *7th Feb.* 1801.

MY DEAR SIR,—His Majesty has declared war* against Russia. I am not yet acquainted with the Declaration of war ag^{t} Denmark and Sweden, but orders are issued to stop at sea and detain the vessels of those nations. Prussia has not yet taken a part in the war, but that event is also to be apprehended. The Emp^{r}. of Russia has sent Mr. de Kalitcheff to Paris as Ambassador to the French Republick.

The squadron which got out of Brest on the 9th Jan^{y}

* This war against the "Baltic Powers" arose out of the claims made by the "Armed Neutrality."

was driven in to La Vilaine by Sir Edward Pellew. The Austrian Peace is expected immediately, on very mortifying and afflicting terms. The French have positively refused to include Naples in the Austrian peace, or Armistice, but professed a disposition to return to a good understanding with that court, on account of the powers which interest themselves in her favour, and particularly Russia. Mr. de Gallo's passport had been ask'd for, but the answer was not yet rec^{d} from Paris. . . . . Believe me ever, &c. MINTO.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord KEITH.

PALERMO, *9th Feb^{y}.* 1801.

MY DEAR LORD,—I inclose you a Copy of the Armistice signed in Germany, a most lamentable monument of the miserable state of the Austrian Armies. An Armistice has been also concluded in Italy equally disgraceful, by which the French become Masters of Peschiera, Legnago, Verona, Ancona &c. The Austrians, wonderful to be told, keep Mantua. They are behind the Tagliamento. The Country between that River, and I believe the Adige, is to remain unoccupied. An Armistice has been offered to the King of Naples upon condition of dismissing Gen^{l}. Acton, of receiving all the Neapolitan Patriots, Emigrés, &c., of delivering up Dolomieu* & Damas & of shutting His Ports to the English. Those are Proposals which, you will imagine, require some modifications, but I apprehend that the French, who have an army of 40,000 men which they can very well detach against Naples, will not listen to much. In this state of Things the English Merchants at Naples are become very clamourous for ships for the Protection of their Property. There is nothing here, & I know not what to do. What can you be doing with all those heavy ships upon that dreadful Coast? would they not be much more serviceably employed for all our interests in these Seas?

* Son of a French marquis, one of the Knights of Malta, and a most distinguished geologist. Driven by a storm on the Neapolitan coast, he was thrown into prison for 21 months, and subjected to the greatest sufferings, in spite of the intercession of various powers. By an article in the French treaty he was set free, March 1801, and given a chair of mineralogy in France. He died in Nov. from the effects of his imprisonment.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[Private.] PALERMO, 11*th Feb*^{y}. 1801.

MY LORD,—It is impossible that I can from Palermo give Your Lordship accurate and timely information upon what has passed and is likely to pass between the Neapolitan and French Governments at this very critical moment.

I have written to General Acton to recommend him to order Prince Castelcicala to make the most open and unreserved communication upon the subject to Your Lordship, as the best mode of serving the common Interests of the two Countries.

I have also stated to him that it would be extremely desirable to reject if possible all articles which may be directly hostile to Great Britain. Of this description I have pointed out an alliance with France—the exclusion of British Ships from the Ports of His Sicilian Majesty—the refusal of Supplies to Malta and to His Majesty's fleets—and I have further pointed out the importance it will be of that His Sicilian Majesty should not accede to this new and extraordinary system concerning Neutral Navigation. But I fear from the calculation made of the disposable force which the french may have for the attack of the Kingdom of Naples, that it will be as impossible for the Neapolitans to oppose them in Negociation as in the field.

Your Lordship may I think be persuaded that nothing but the most imperious and pressing necessity will induce His S^{n}. Majesty's Government to sacrifice the interests of their faithful and ancient ally.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

MARMORIX, *Feby 15th*, 1801.

MY DEAR PAGET,—I have your letter of Jany 21st and thank you for the Miserable detail which I had heard before by way of Constantinople, I sent the Coll* his letters he is quite well, I am not Mystereous about Egypt for we are still here but I hope we are about to move soon, the french have got in two frigates and about

* Edward Paget.—A. P.

700 men, but here all my Ships are locked up with troops on board &c., &c, The little force I had to dispose of was so *disposed* as to Serve the King of Naples as much as possible and if the Account of an Armistice is unfounded or is broken off the Instant the troops are able to hold their Ground I will come to the Coast of Naples for I confess I feel much interested in every thing which passes there and I feel the Nation Comited to be so perhaps I am an old fashioned politican—from this Wretched place I can tell you who is in the Gay Circle Nothing but that we have been Waiting here forty days for Vessels &c. and promises from the Turks which are of as little Value as those of Christians The Weather become Warm and I am anxious to quit this place if we are fortunate you shall hear from me for I am most Sincerely Your faithful friend &c. KEITH.

From General ACTON *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

PALERMO, *Feb. 17th*, 1801.

SIR,—I have received your Favor of the 10th Ins^{t}. I see what you are so good to tell me in order to lessen in a manner our just and painfull reflexions on the total forsaking of the two Sicilyes in the Armistices made by the Emperor and His Generals. The Convention of the 22^{d} of X^{bre}. was not certainly a new Engagement, it was but a repetition of what had been stipulated in a former Treaty which was never declared void in obligations, tho' it has proved so in its effects.

I Receive just now a Courier from Marquis de Gallo * still at Vienna the 26th he is waiting for a Passport to go to Luneville, but has no answer from Count Cobentzell on the Subject, nor on that of the Peace, wherein the two Sicilyes by a special demand of the Emperor were to be included. That Peace however is made, it was publishd on the 1st February at Trent, and Inspruck. M^{r}. de Gallo sent his Courier through the french Army with a letter to Brune, wherein he desires an armistice &c &c. Brune has Kept the Courier at Milan many days and has Sent him to Rome, without any answer to Gallo, nor letters to

* He was agent for Naples at Luneville. In spite of her repeated and emphatic promises Austria entirely abandoned Naples in the treaty.

anybody on the Subject. You may Imagine our Situation. the demands of Gen[l] Damas to Murat have been rejected as to his conditions proposed. he answers with a positive declaration of admitting no variation from what he sends in a second note or convention, I enclose to you Murat's letter and his proposals: with my answer to Damas on the Subject. I have Sent Micheroux to Murat, as I find that by adjutants going backwards and forwards nothing is Concluded, by these papers you will see plainly our critical position. The French have 24 thousand men now in the Roman States, as far as Ascoli and Rieti. 15 thousand are marching from Ferrara and entering Romagna: notwithstanding many declarations in Favor of the South of Italy given to the Pope. Every hour we may hear more from Ancona. You will see that we oppose as much as we can to the Torrent, with reasons, but the Forces are Superior, and the violences of every Kind may be expected. No acquiescences in the Peace, (and it must be a forced one!) shall mention engagements of this Court for any Coalition or Stipulations against the English System, *or armed neutrality* as mentioned at present for the Northen Powers. You will judge of our position: as we are entirely abandoned. No hope of Peace at Paris by the Austrian Influence can be entertained. A Kind of despising in the Austrian Ministry takes a place at present of the many useless words and promises formerly employed I have sent to the Queen all our papers to be showed to Lord Minto, and dispatched by the same courier to Castelcicala in order to present the case and the truth to Lord Grenville. Your letters were sent by courier to Vienna.—I have the honor, &c., (Signed) J. ACTON.

From General ACTON *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

NAPLES, *Feb.* 19, 1801.

SIR,—I have time the Frigate being only now under sail to acquaint you again of all our Strange misfortunes, and critical position. Gen[l] Murat acquaints Gen[l] Damas by a letter which I receive just now from Rome, before he had seen Major Valenti and Micheroux on their errands to Ancona, that he shall not suspend the motions, march, and attacks of his Army in the Kingdom, unless he re-

cieves immediately from the Russian Ambassador, I think he mean's Count Levatchew,* the notice that His Sicilian Majesty has laid an *Embargo* on English vessels in His Ports.† as this condition, says Murat, must be Settled immediately, being determined with the Court of Russia, you may imagine what an effect it has on this Government. Gen[l] Borosdin‡ encreases since yesterday his pretentions and most saucy ones. We are calling men from Damass' corp to man our Castles instead of the Russians which Borosdin desires to have in the Town. I am in a most disagreable situation as to the Behaviour of this Man since an Intelligence is settled,it appears, between the French and him. I have acquainted under hand Lord William Stuard§ of this position. We shall certainly stand up the negative to such a strange demand as long as we can. As a determined partiality seems with Hatred and Vengeance to influence against me the Generals French and *Russian* I have prevented the King of it, and shall wait His Majesty's orders to retire myself intirely if a persistance continues from the French. Murat declares to Damas, that Gallo in Paris‖ shall not receive any benefitt from the Court of Vienna, but from the Russians alone. I hope then to have the pleasure to see you in Palermo in my way to Shropshire.—I have the honor to be with true regard, &c. J. ACTON.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 3.] PALERMO, 25 *Febry.* 1801.

(Mr. Paget begins by giving a summary of the last letter, and then proceeds:)

With respect to the embargo on British Shipping being a measure concerted & agreed upon with Russia, it appears that the assertion is a gross & infamous falsehood.

In consequence however of the Relation which appears

* See Mr. Paget's despatch, Feb. 25.

† The object of Bonaparte was to close the only ports on the Continent now open to England, those of Naples and Portúgal.

‡ The Russian General commanding in Naples.

§ *Query* Bentinck.

‖ The Marquis de Gallo had gone to Paris to negotiate better terms for Naples.

to subsist between Russia & France, H.S.M^{y} has been induced to request the Russian Minister Mr. D'Italinsky to proceed to Naples, in order to remonstrate, as an ally of this Country, against the progress of the French into the Neapolitan Dominion, & further to conclude if possible an armistice. This request has been complied with by Mr. D'Italinsky & he set sail this evening for Naples.

It is not necessary to comment upon the effect which the possibility of being forced into a Rupture with England has had here, or to repeat the assurances which have been made to me by the Government upon the subject. The value of the Friendship & alliance with England are too sensibly felt by this Country not to render the idea of offering an Insult to H.M^{y}'s Flag an object of dread and displeasure.

H.S.M^{y} has I know delivered his sentiments most unreservedly upon the subject to Mr. D'Italinsky, and it has in fact been principally with a view of getting rid of that article in the Armistice proposed by the French which exacts an embargo to be laid on English Shipping, that has induced the king of Naples to demand the interference of the Russian Minister, and as an ally & Friend of this Country that Minister, feeling very properly that nothing could be more injurious to it's interests than a rupture with England, has consented to employ his good offices in the manner requested of Him.

I am however in the mean time under a considerable degree of alarm lest notwithstanding the strong assurances I have received from him, Genl. Acton, unacquainted with the resolutions which have been taken here & deceived by the above mentioned declaration of the French, may have thought this situation of things sufficiently desperate to accede to the measure. . . . .

The Russian General Levatcheff is arrived here in order to present the orders of the Emperor of Russia to H.S.M^{y}. Having known that Gentleman in Russia, I can venture to say that he is not charged with any other commission. —I have, &c., (Signed) A. PAGET.

From Lord HAWKESBURY* *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[No. 1.] DOWNING STREET, *28th Febv.* 1801.

SIR,—In consequence of the indisposition of His Majesty, His confidential servants have not had it in their power for several days to receive his commands on any matters of business; but as the Neapolitan Minister has presented a Memorial to me on the melancholy situation in which the King of the two Sicilies is placed, by the separate Peace concluded between Austria and France, and as the answer to this Memorial admits of no delay, I think it right to inform you that it is the decided opinion of His Majesty's confidential Servants that in the present state of the Continent, His S.M. should use every endeavour to conclude a Peace with the French Republick on the best terms he may be enabled to obtain without any reference to His engagements with Great Britain; and that if he should find himself obliged to assent to the insertion of articles in the Treaty which should prohibit to British Ships the entrance of the Ports of His Sicilian Majesty's dominions, His Majesty's confidential servants would consider this as an act of necessity, and not as any proof of an hostile disposition in the King of the two Sicilies towards this Country.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord GRENVILLE.

[No. 4.] PALERMO, 28 *Feby.* 1801.

MY LORD,—Since I had last the Honor of writing to Yr. Lp. I have received from General Acton the Account of an Armistice having been signed between the Neapolitans & French† . . . . .

It was not to be expected that the French would leave to H.S.My. the quiet enjoyment of His connection with England, but I will own to Your Lordship that I was hardly prepared to learn that the Interests of His Majesty would be sacrificed to the extent they are by this Armistice.

It appears to me that the Neapolitans have acted upon

* Mr. Pitt had been replaced by Mr. Addington on Feb. 10, and Lord Grenville was succeeded by Lord Hawkesbury, afterwards Earl of Liverpool, and Prime Minister from 1812 to 1827.

† It was signed on the 18th.

the bare assertion of Gen[l]. Murat, who declared that H.S.My. owed his Preservation to the interference of the Emperor of Russia. If that is true, they would hardly have dared to invade the Country of His Ally. If it is not, the Neapolitan Government might have called upon the Russian Minister (or General Levatcheff who happened to be that moment at Naples) to have remonstrated with the French against the intended invasion of that Kingdom. I am far from saying that this measure would have succeeded, but it might have been attempted, and I have very solid reasons for affirming that the Russian Minister (notwithstanding the unfortunate state of affairs between this Court & England) would not, as ally of this Country and of course having its welfare in view, have advised the Neapolitan Government to have acceded to terms so injurious to its Interests as the total exclusion of British Ships from these Ports and of course the separate Article connected with it.

With regard to any actual resistance which might have been made to an attack of the French, I own that I was not sanguine about it, tho' I might fairly have been so had I trusted to the Reports made at different times to me by Gen[l]. Acton himself of the state of the Neapolitan Army, & particularly the *Armed Mass*, who are computed in the Abruzzis alone at 30,000.

From all the circumstances which have hitherto come to my knowledge I cannot help thinking that this disgraceful Armistice has been rather easily acceded to. In saying this I mean to acquit the Neapolitan Gov[t] of everything but weakness.

In the representation which has been made to me upon the subject by H.S.M[y's] Ministers, & in the extenuation of it, much stress is laid upon the Article concerning the Embargo being a secret one—their next defence therefore of the measure, after the necessity of it, is built upon that circumstance. It is my duty to inform Your Lordship that the strongest assurances have been made to me by this Gov[t] of the repugnance & affliction of H.S.M[y's] mind at finding Himself compelled to act in a manner so hostile to the Interests of His Majesty. It is sincerely hoped that His Majesty, in forming His Judgement upon the events which have happened, will take into His Con-

sideration the defenceless situation of H.S.M^{y} when compared to the Force opposed to Him, & the known attachment & friendship of that Sovereign for His M^{y} & the English Nation.

However dissatisfied His S.M^{y} may & necessarily must be at the result of this negociation, I have some reason to believe that he is rather of opinion that it was hastily concluded; Gen^{l} Acton on the contrary pretends that the smallest delay would have increased the demands of the Enemy.

A considerable degree of Hope is entertained here in consequence of M^{r} D'Italinsky's presence at Naples. That Minister has promised that Court to use his utmost endeavours by an immediate interference at the French Head Quarters, where it appears a peace with Naples is treating, to render those Articles relating to G^{t} Britain less injurious to this Government. Your Lordship is already informed that I some time ago pointed out to Gen^{l} Acton such Articles as would be hostile to G^{t} Britain. These were the Exclusion of British Ships, the Refusal of Supplies, an Alliance with France, & I mentioned that with regard to Russia, it would certainly be required that H.S.M^{y} should not enter into the new System of the Armed Neutrality. With respect to the latter, I have not yet discovered that the Russian Minister has said anything. In the mean time, I have received promises both from the King & Gen^{l} Acton that they will enter into no engagements against England. With regard to the other Articles I have protested in a firm yet friendly manner against the Conclusion of a Peace which may comprehend them, particularly the two first, to their full extent. I do not expect that much good, but I cannot think that any harm, can arise from this. I am conscious of the dread this Government has of losing the friendship of England, but it seems to me to stand in need of every incitement to Vigor & Resistance in order to preserve it.

At the time I received the official Communication from M^{r} Serrati* of the conclusion of the Armistice, I received a message from H.S.M^{y} expressing the Sentiments I have already taken notice of, and his anxious desire that I

* Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs.—A. P.

should continue to reside at His Court, a request which I have thought it right to acquiesce in.

As, notwithstanding all the Concessions which have already & will still no doubt be made, I fully expect to see the French at Naples, & perhaps in Sicily, under pretence no doubt of garrisoning the Ports, I own to Your Lordship that I can still less bring myself to see the necessity of granting the terms that have and will be asked.

The effect casued by the late transactions has in many respects occasioned much uneasiness & dissatisfaction in these Kingdoms. The idea of losing the Commerce and Friendship of England causes the most painful sensations among the Inhabitants.

I cannot help calling Your Lordship's particular attention to the letter of M^r^ Micheroux which I enclose. What, My Lord, can be expected from a man who assures His Sovereign that He has no longer any perfidy to apprehend on the part of the French, and that they now no longer seek to subvert Society—but what will appear still more astonishing is that Gen^l^ Acton concludes one of his Letters to me by hoping that a General Peace would soon terminate the present misfortunes of Europe, for that a change of Spirit & Opinion had taken place throughout France, & that every thing tended to the re-establishment of Ancient Forms. I forbear to make any comments upon this most extraordinary Instance of Human Weakness. With regard to M^r^ de Micheroux He is a man of whom I have always entertained a bad opinion. If General Acton ever thought for a moment that I should give in to these ideas, my Answer to His Letter will have beyond the possibility of doubt proved to him the error he was in.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* General ACTON.

PALERMO, *Sunday evening, 1 March,* 1801.

SIR,—. . . . I have read Micheroux's letter over and over with great attention and it seems clear to me that that man is *joué* by Murat. Let me entreat your Excellency not to believe one word of all that is said about Bona-

BONAPARTE,

AS FIRST CONSUL OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

parte's change of principles. Wait at least until he has given Europe some proof of it. I say nothing of the proposal for the order,* because it is too ludicrous to be thought seriously of. But when his Sicilian Majesty's plenipotentiary assures him that he has no perfidy to apprehend on the part of the French, that they now no longer seek the subversion of Society etc. etc. etc. it is then time for reflecting men to think, and in reflecting to shudder. Your Excellency knows my principles and has, I may flatter myself, some confidence in them; you know, Sir, my attachment to the interests of your Sovereign and of yourself, and you know my opinions respecting the Commission of our Courts. I have no other motives for my guidance. Let me therefore once more call upon your Excellency to guard against the snares of the french government, and the opinions of those who are entrapped by them. To place Faith in the french is perdition without a chance of Remission.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, 2d *March*, 1801.

MY DEAR SIR,—I believe I have let a Neapolitan messenger slip since my last, which is of an older date (12 Feb.) than I like. The present messenger has been delay'd from day to day a considerable time. I have now to send you, tho' late, an abstract of the treaty of Luneville which I prepared for you before the publication of the treaty, & I still send it because it touches some points not mention'd in the publick treaty. It is such a peace as was to be expected from a negotiation which profess'd thro'out as its basis, the impossibility of resisting any proposition tender'd by the enemy. The ratification of the Emperor is gone. That of the Empire it is thought will be obtain'd in about three weeks. I have now to add to the List of our Enemies the Court of Berlin, which declared to Ld Carysfort on the 12th Feb. her adherence to the Northern confederacy, & her resolution to take an active part if the Embargo is not taken off in England

* Murat had asked to be decorated with the first order of the country—the order of S. Ferdinand.

from the shipping of the Allies. The occupation of Hanover, & our exclusion from the Elbe & Weser seem events at no great distance. We have not yet heard of the Marquis de Gallo's arrival at Paris. In the meanwhile the negotiation with Naples seems to have advanced at Rome, & to have got the start of Gallo & the first consul. By the little that is known here on that subject I fear our exclusion from the Ports of his Sicilian Majesty is one article of the Armistice. I am persuaded it must be lamented at Palermo, as a measure of real hostility to England in the present circumstances. Yet we must, before all other considerations, wish for the safety & preservation of the Sicilian Monarchy, & submit for the moment to the disadvantages it may be necessary to lay upon us for that purpose. We may probably find in the secret & real friendship of that court a corrective of the unfavourable stipulations, by the manner of executing them, & I fear this is the best prospect we can at present look to, in our relations with Naples. Since Paul was to be the author of so much mischief to the world by throwing himself into the scale of the French Republick, I rejoice at least in the partial good that seems to result from the momentary influence at Paris which his new system has given him, very opportunely, at the moment when the destiny of so many states and sovereigns were under decision, & to whom his protection will I hope prove effectual. Naples is of the number, & is the court in the welfare of which both from duty & inclination I feel the warmest interest. Sardinia, I hope, will also profit by the same cause. Piedmont is to be restored, & I am told a compensation for Savoy is even to be provided.

You will have learnt Gen^{l} Koeler's death & that of his wife in the grand Vizir's camp at Yaffa. They both fell victims to a malignant fever, which perhaps might deserve a worse name as the plague is in the camp. I flatter myself the Expedition sail'd from Marmoressa to the coast of Egypt about the end of Jan^{y}.

You may perhaps have heard that I never considered myself as a permanent member of the diplomatic corps. My Anti-Gallican zeal brought me here. The peace & all that is to follow it is not to my mind. I have therefore

about a fortnight ago, ask'd Lord Grenville for a successor, & I may expect to be relieved some time in the course of the summer. I do not speak of this generally, but I have experienced so much kindness from you, that I am willing to flatter myself you may take some interest in what concerns me, & the sentiments of sincere regard & friendship which I have conceived towards you are such as almost to entitle me to claim some return of goodwill.—I am, &c. (Signed) MINTO.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to the* Earl of UXBRIDGE.

PALERMO, *3rd March*, 1801.

In what a terrible situation are things upon the Continent. I will tell you between ourselves, & will hereafter detail my reasons to you, that, had my advice been followed about Malta, this rupture with Russia never could have happened, at least on that ground. The whole however is a work of Bonaparte's—of that you may rest assured, & I shall not be surprised by the same means to see a War between Austria & Prussia. The whole forces of the Continent being employed, he will have full leisure to prosecute his designs against England, Portugal, &c. He will begin by the Invasion of the latter. The whole plan is prepared and ripe for execution. In the mean time General Murat, who commands the French in Italy, says openly that France is no longer a Republic, that that form of Government is not calculated for, and cannot exist in it, & He has had the impudence to ask for the first order of this Country, it being time, he says, to make a distinction in the different Classes of Society, & he wishing to shew the example. This is all what I call the Quintessence of *Fourberie Démocratique*, but unfortunately people are taken in by it, and thus Europe is humbled.

Good bye my dear Father, I don't ask you to write, believe me only ever your most dutiful & affectionate Son (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

I enclose you a specimen* of French Infamy.

* Nothing to show what this was.—A. P.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord HAWKESBURY.

[Private.] PALERMO, 3 *March*, 1801.

MY LORD,—It is just possible that had I been at Naples before the signing of the Armistice, it might have been in my power to have prevented it's being carried to its full extent. I therefore think it my duty to inform your Lordship that I offered to go with the Prince Royal to Naples (the Russian Minister did the same) and that His Sicilian Majesty rather expressed a wish that the foreign Ministers should not quit him. But, My Lord, what can be expected from this Government after what I have related at the end of my dispatch N°. 4 of the 29th. Ult°. I never thought General Acton otherwise than a very weak man, but it now looks absolutely as if he were doating.

With regard to M. Italinsky, of whom so much is now expected, there hardly exists I believe a more upright man, but he owes his situation in a great measure to General Acton, to whose opinions I have in general found him inclined to bend. I saw him before his departure in a *Maison Tierce*. He assured me solemnly that he did not believe it to be the intention of his Sovereign to act with regard to Naples as the French had made General Acton believe was the case. He said he could understand nothing in General Acton's conduct on the present occasion. I am only afraid that he will submit to be talked over. At present he considers the Armistice as an Instance of excessive Weakness on the part of the Neapolitan Government. . . . .

I have mentioned such a thing as the right of a Sovereign not to ratify a treaty He may be dissatisfied with. But Mr. Serrati is a Man who might have been an excellent Minister during a profound Peace half a Century ago. When, My Lord, I look around me and reflect upon the persons employed in the different departments of this Government I do not understand how the thing goes on at all. The fact is that General Acton will not employ People who are not blindly devoted to him, and he has certainly brought himself to think that this is a well governed State. I always return to a position I formerly made. There is neither Army, Navy, Commerce, Justice,

Agriculture, Religion, or Roads in these Kingdoms. And as long as General Acton remains at the head of affairs I despair of seeing any change for the better in them. He will listen to none but those who flatter him. At the same time there is not a Man in these Kingdoms fit to hold his situation. Your Lordship will naturally expect to see the Armistice followed by a Peace equally disgraceful and ruinous.

I think it right to mention that a Memorial was sent some time ago to the Emperor of Russia, drawn up by a Person formerly French Vice Consul at Cairo, and since Consul at Rhodes. The object of this Memorial is to point out to the Emperor of Russia the facility with which, by an alliance with Persia, he might attack His Majesty's East Indian Possessions. Dumourier was pointed out as a proper Person to entrust with the undertaking. I have not seen the Memorial, but I am assured it is such as is likely to have a very strong effect on the Mind of such a Man as the Emperor of Russia.

I shall await here with the most anxious impatience Your Lordship's further Instructions. I sincerely trust that your Lordship will feel that it has not been in my power to stop the mischief which has happened here. Every thing that my mind can suggest I have written in the strongest manner to General Acton, and have urged upon the Ministers here.

Having no other conveyance and being particularly desirous to hear from Your Lordship I shall send one of my Servants at least as far as Vienna with my dispatches.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord ELGIN.

PALERMO, 3^{d} *March*, 1801.

Gen^{l} Murat, who commands & negociates for the french, acquainted M^{r} Micheroux that the King of Naples owed His Safety to the Interference of the Emperor of Russia,* & that therefore the least return He could make him would be to shut His Ports to the English shipping, particularly as an embargo had been laid in England on Russian shipping. He further added that it was a

* See letter of Feb. 7.

measure that had been concerted & agreed upon between Russia & France, & if it was not acceded to he would immediately march against Naples. The fact however is, that the Russian Minister is gone from hence to Naples for the purpose of protesting against the abuse that has been made of the Emperor of Russia's name, and of softening the Conditions which relate to England, which he as a friend & ally of this Country feels are so injurious to its Interests. Great hopes therefore are entertained here that he will have influence enough with the French Gen[l] to procure better terms for this Country. For my part *je n'en crois rien*, and fully expect to see the French at Naples & perhaps in Sicily (no doubt under the pretext of embarking from hence for an attack upon Malta) in the course of a month or six weeks. You will hardly believe that Gen[l] Murat has had the Impudence to ask for the Order of S[t] Ferdinand (a new Ord[r] lately instituted here which I believe takes the precedence of S[t] Janvier). He says he has asked his brother in Law Bonaparte to be sent Ambassador to this Court, & trusts that H.S.M. will confer this mark of Distinction upon him for the services he will have rendered this Court.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

[Most secret.] ABOUKIR BAY, *March 5th*, 1801.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I got your afflicting letter yesterday and what is wose the Account of the Enemys fleet being in the Mediteranean of course I conclude Minorca gone but orders are to be obeyed, I must now state our circumstances we came to anchor on the 2d in a fine day got out our Boats while the Gen[l]. went to reconoitre the beech for Landing where the Enemy have a Camp by the time we returned the Wind had encreased to a Gale which continues in great Violence this Ship struck the Ground this morning but does not Leak the enemy increase their Numbers and fortify every Hill while we expect to drive on shore much damnage has been already done—All the turks and Horse transports had abandoned us on the passage in a Gale We have had most Melancholy Weather and I wish I could tell my good friend it was over we are in great danger if I have a

moment I will add to this if not all good attend you March 9th. we have made a very honorable Landing with Loss but the french have read a Lesson to day they will not soon forget it was done in high Style by Both Services and after the moment of Regret lifted the Nation high in estimation I was not far off and saw it all—I am most sincerly ever Yours, &c.

(Signed) KEITH.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, 5 *March*, 1801.

MY DEAR SIR,—The Messenger being delayed I have an opportunity to add a few lines. We have rec[d] to day the Neapolitan Armistice. The whole proceeding of Murat is in contradiction with the formal and official declarations of the French Govt. to Count Cobenzl & to the professions of the Empr. of Russia. The Queen* shows a very warm & generous concern at the articles which place our friend & ally almost in a state of hostility with us. I have however already in my former letter express'd my feeling on the subject. A little temper & management on our side, & the goodwill which at bottom prevails, I have no doubt, on the other, may furnish us with the resources we want in spite of prohibitions.

You will see the change of our Ministry in all the foreign papers. We have no account of it direct from England, our latest letters being of the 3rd. Feb., but there is no doubt of the fact—Mr. Pitt, Ld. Grenville, Ld. Spencer, Mr. Dundas, & Mr. Windham have resign'd. This misfortune is occasioned (& I believe solely) by a difference in the Cabinet, & particularly between Mr. Pitt & the King, on the question of Catholick Emancipation. The new ministers are all taken from among the Colleagues, supporters, & friends of the old; & the late ministers profess their intention of supporting their successors. The detail of the new ministry did not seem correctly settled or known.—Believe me ever, &c.

(Signed) MINTO.

* The Queen of Naples.

From the Hon. ARTHUR PAGET *to* Lord KEITH.

PALERMO, *March* 13, 1801.

MY DEAR LORD,—. . . . . I fully expect that the French will use every effort to get both to Naples and into Sicily, in consequence of which I have made a declaration to the following effect:

That, however disposed we might be, in consideration of the present circumstance, to put up with the Armistice, which is in fact so injurious to our interests, still that we could not allow it to be broken by the arrival of French Troops in His Sicilian Majesty's Ports, that therefore we should attack them wherever we could find them and trusted to H.S.M. to assist us in an undertaking in which His own Welfare is so evidently concerned.

This has had a good effect, and the strongest assurances have been given me that the utmost vigour should be employed in resisting the attempts at invasion by the Enemy. I trust this language will be acted upon.

The timely arrival of Sir John Warren in these Seas enabled me to talk in this way, and as long as the Sicilians know that they will be supported by us, we have I think nothing to fear for this Island.

His Sicilian Majesty has promised not to enter into any engagement with Russia against us by adopting that new and unjust doctrine of the Armed Neutrality, or in any other manner.—Believe me, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From General ACTON *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

NAPLES, *March* 15th, 1801.

SIR,—I have received your two letters of the 28th J^{y} and 1st of March, and thank you for the contents, tho' I cannot help of feeling how Severe some remarks have been on the concluded Armistice. No, Sir, an old and good ally and Faithfull friend as the English have not been, nor cannot be, Sacrifyed as you express in your reflexions. The armistice was concluded as a necessary means in that moment for Saving an innocent People and Country, intirely abandoned by every body, and most Scandalously by the house of Austria, from being a victim

to its good faith and being intirely ruined and depauperated. no faith certainly was, nor is to be had on the french, but three proposals having been rejected one after another, 24 thousand men being on the frontiers, marching every day further on, and half a day in three parts from the neapolitan territory, gave room to encrease every moment the pretentions. the Saving from a Sudden invasion was the first object, as 18 thousand men besides the first mentioned were marching from Ferrara and Bologna for the resolved conquest.

The Shuting of the Ports in the two Sicilyes had been offerd in 1796 to His Sicilian majesty for making immediately the Peace if that condition would avail in obtaining without loss of time the pacification of this country: a Courier from Lord Grenville, another from the Admiral Sir John Jervis brougt them such a declaration; in June 1800 the same offer from lord Keith was made to Her Sicilian Majesty at Leghorn after the most Shamefull armistice of Maringo.

As to the Embargo on french and turck vessels, such a measure never was nor could be obtained from this Government. Measures therefore with the french assentment were taken in order that such a deed could never have any effect, Precautions and measures for saving an abandoned country by every Friend could and was to be taken, but nothing against honor and Good faith never could and should be done by this Government. Instances certainly are at present under every one's consideration to prove that an armistice more than once in these last times have been made without regard to faithfull allys: and even with Sacrifying and laying in the Ennemy's own hands territorys and strong places belonging to allyes, who had had the good faith to let them garrisoned by a Power, thought then capable of maintening promises and Treatys. Force it is said has obliged these operations. I am not certainly to oppose to these reasons, but I must say that no force was ever more superiorly employed than it is at present against the two Sicilyes; a french army of near 70 thousand men in Italy having no impediment from any side against the conquest of the two Sicilyes, decreed and established by the French Government. You invite me, Sir, to answer to our mode of seeing even the

Russian dispositions before we had received a demand from the Ennemy who mentioned this as extravagantly as it came to its thought in the name of the Russians. You are certainly apprised by the detail of this disagreeable event that no demand for a truce was made but by the means of Count Levatchew who had such a Commission from murat for Damas—that Gentleman came here, was desired to stay and return to the French Camp, but contented himself to interfere with letters. We had no minister here, but heard *the declarations* from levatchew on the subject. The Ennemy was marching then, but this Ennemy had their orders from Paris. This is what I am to declare. certainly the conquest of the two Sicilyes had been fixed and will take place, tho' we may be Illuded with a prospect of Peace. You mention vigorous measures, these I find you are not acquainted are taking place in the manner possible, when abandoned by every friend, and with an army to which we cannot trust, we are forced to separate the several Corps, and confide only in armed peasants and the several ports which the country may afford. We are intirely sacrifyed by every body, who seem in many parts to delight in our Ruin and destruction, but if we are to fall, we shall do it honorably. we shall be attacked again the 22nd as we reject intirely the shamefull proposal of a second armistice. I do confide you my letters from Paris of the 25th and 26th February and those of the 10th from Florence. You seem to wonder that Micheroux should be employed, he is weak, but honest, and we had nobody to trust to, in the middle of a body of *Emigrés* who were treating rather their own conditions than those of the country they were serving, by the contents of all these papers, which I beg you will be so kind to keep to yourself you will see the weight of the circumstances on this country ; the Government has rejected every proposal. what the Russian Minister will do in going to Florence, *pour conjurer l'orage*, in the name of his Sovereign is what we cannot know as to success. I have no hope at all. Three weeks of time have given us room to divide our corps in order to avoid more treasonable managements, and arm our peasants. no Fondation is certainly to be had in a Success ; but we shall at least gain time and sell dear to the aggressors

the meditated possessions. we prefer to see them taken by the Sword, than to agree a permanence of Invaders and Robbers with all sort of immoral dispositions in these countryes deserving certainly a better Fate. We hear that Portugal is making their Peace, by the letters from madrid of the 15th February. You may judge, Sir, of our situation by what I am exposing. as Gallo is out of conceit and opinions with the Court of Petersbourg, we are still in the highest confusion for employing people if Peace can be had we must submit to our fate, not without however having exhausted every means in our power.—I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient and most humble servant, J. ACTON.

From General ACTON *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

March 15, 1801.

I receive this morning from the Cardinal Secretary of State the curious news, that the Danish Legation at Petersbourg had quitted that Capital, and at the same time the Russian legation in Copenhagen had departed likewise. That Coalition receives by this a Blow certainly, as the danes relatively to sea business had or could have had a great weight in that party. I will hope that all these strange and unhappy circumstances will end by a General Peace, as the change of Spirit and Senses or opinions on the democratick Systems are at present all over france against the principle, and a monarchical or the despotical command of one person directs there all the operations tending to the ancient forms.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, 23^{d} *March*, 1801.

Mr. de Kalitcheff's arrival at Paris was known by the French Gov^{t} to render a perseverance in their oppressive demands on the King of Naples impossible, & for that reason after exhausting in vain the efforts of their perfidy on the constancy & good sense of Gallo, they posted off Alquier * to make the same experiment on Micheroux, & to surprize & extort in this critical moment concessions

* To Florence. See despatch No. 2, Oct. 4, 1798.

which they could not ask, or could not hope to obtain 48 hours later when the Russian Ambassador was to arrive.* Accordingly you will learn with great satisfaction that Kalitcheff has insisted on including Naples in the peace of Russia, on the simple footing of integrity of possessions & *strict neutrality* in the remainder of the war. You will also feel the extreme importance of another branch of Kalitcheff's instructions of which I have certain advice from Paris, namely, to demand the restitution of Egypt to the Porte, & a refusal of all concert with France hostile to that power. I am writing in extraordinary haste & must not indulge myself in speculations or reflexions, & shall therefore only add that the Duke of Parma is expected at Paris, where the confident opinion is that Bonaparte proposes to crown him King of Tuscany, & thus to feel the pulse of Paris & France at the sight of a coronation. It does in truth seem that there is a great change in the prevalent humour of France, & not that it has forsworn Perfidy, avidity, or ambition, but that democracy is out of fashion, & that the French Republicans are nearly ripe for the transition which was to come at last from the present state of their government to a monarchy, in the person no doubt of the *protector*. Cobenzl has the gout. The ratification of the Empire† had not reached Paris on the 12th March. It was expected two days later. It does not appear that France & Prussia hitherto understood each other perfectly on German affairs.—Believe me ever, my Dear Sir, most faithfully & affectionately yours MINTO.

From the Hon. ARTHUR PAGET *to* General Sir JOHN ACTON, Bart.

PALERMO, *March* 27, 1801.

SIR,—I take the first opportunity of returning your Excellency my best thanks for your letter of the 15th

* Kalitcheff arrived in Paris on March 6, charged with certain conditions—that Russia and France should make no peace with England till Malta was given up; and that Piedmont and Naples should be left independent. Talleyrand answered that they met to discuss the affairs of the great powers, and not the general affairs of the world. Meanwhile the negotiations were hastily transferred from Paris to Florence.

† To the Peace of Luneville, which Francis had been forced to sign *for the Empire* as well as for Austria.

Inst. as well as for the interesting enclosures which accompanied it.

It is scarcely necessary that I should express the satisfaction I feel at perusing and reflecting upon the extremely proper and manly language used by the Marquis de Gallo and M. de Micheroux in reply to the exorbitant, unjust, and perfidious demands of the enemy.

Yr. Excellency will easily imagine how anxious I am to be put in possession of the sequel of those important negociations. As a friend to His Sicilian Majesty's Interests, I learn with peculiar pleasure the resolution you have taken to resist with vigour the aggression of the enemy. The necessity of it has never been from before my eyes, and I have thought it my duty to state the same unreservedly to M. Serrati for the information of His Sicilian Majesty, to whom I have also done myself the honor of offering the hearty co-operation of the English Fleet at present cruizing in these Seas.

My Sovereign will, I make no doubt, with His usual Justice see the necessity which compelled H.S.M. to shut His Ports to His Flag, but at the same time it would be impossible for Him to see with indifference the Ports of H.S.M. occupied by French troops. It would therefore be the indispensable duty of His Majesty's Naval Commanders to pursue and attack the enemy in any of the Ports they propose to occupy, whether that Force should arrive by Sea or Land. I have thought it incumbent upon me to make this known to His Sicilian Majesty, who has been pleased to express his satisfaction at the same, and to declare His determination of not only not making any further concession but of repelling any attack.

But of course Yr. Ex^{y}. is informed of the little that passes here. It however gave me singular pleasure to find that these satisfactory assurances have been confirmed to me by your Excellency.

You are, no doubt, informed that Sir John Warren passed the Straights in pursuit of the French Squadron under Admiral Gantheaume which is now in Toulon, and it will, I feel convinced, be gratifying to Y^{r}. Ex^{y}. to know that that meritorious officer with the Squadron under his command is within reach, and thoroughly disposed to act to the utmost in support of His Sicilian Majesty.

I sincerely hope that M. d'Italinsky's journey to Florence * may have a better effect than you seem to expect from it, though I am entirely of Y^r Ex^cy's opinion about it.

The French will give in to the Emperor of Russia's Whims and Fancies as long as they have occasion for Him, but during this time His own ruin is working.

Since I last had the honor of writing to Y^r Ex^cy I have received a despatch from Lord Grenville, which conveys to me instructions to use my utmost efforts in prevailing upon H.S.M's Ministers to consent to such a modification of the late measures directed against us. He will exempt from them any provisions which may be purchased in Sicily for the use of His M's Fleet and Army in the Mediterranean.

I will not take up more of Y^r Ex^cy's time than to express the firm reliance I place in the wise and laudable resolutions you have taken of repelling the unjust aggression of the Enemy, and I sincerely trust that this firmness on your part will produce the effect for which it is so well calculated.—I avail myself, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord HAWKESBURY.

[No. 6.] PALERMO, *27th March*, 1801.

MY LORD,—. . . . Sir John Warren with 5 sail of the line & a Frigate appeared off Palermo in the 10th Inst. It appears from the information that officer had been able to obtain, that one of the objects of Mr. Gantheaume's Squadron is Sicily, & I have seen letters from Leghorn which state that there are ready in that port 60 vessels of different descriptions ready for a secret expedition, which is also said to be against Sicily.

Under these circumstances I thought it right to make a declaration to the following effect—" that however injurious the articles of the late Armistice might be to the Interests of His Majesty, still that His Majesty, I did not doubt, would with His usual Justice feel the necessity of concluding it, but that with regard to the actual occupa-

* To influence the negotiations there, on behalf of Russia. See letter of Lord Minto, March 23.

tion of the Ports of His Sicilian M^{y}, particularly that of Sicily, by the Enemy (which would beyond a doubt be required under pretext of an Expedition either to Malta or Egypt) such a measure could not be regarded indifferently by H.M^{y}, that it would therefore become the indispensable duty of H.M$^{y's}$ Naval Commander, to pursue or attack the Enemy in whatever ports of His Sicilian M$^{y's}$ they might attempt to occupy, that I therefore called upon H.S.M^{y} in the event of so gross a violation of the Armistice to support His Majesty's Army in the defence of His own Kingdoms." In answer to this communication with which I understand H.S.M^{y} expressed himself particularly satisfied, I was informed that H.S.M^{y} had determined to make no further concessions to the Enemy, but to resist with the utmost vigor any aggression which might be made against His Dominions & that he had sent the most positive orders to that effect to Naples. Nothing indeed could be clearer or more pointed than the language used by H.S.M$^{y's}$ Ministers upon this occasion. But I am sorry to observe that I see no preparations which answer to these wise resolutions. On the contrary, when I have at different times urged the necessity of taking preparatory measures against an Invasion, I have been told that it would be impolitic to create an alarm among the People. In short from the manner in which affairs are conducted here, I am afraid to think of the consequences if the French should succeed in any considerable attempt against this Island. With regard to Naples my freshest letters from Genl. Acton are of the 15th Inst.; they accompanied the enclosed papers. That Minister is I find somewhat hurt at the contents of my last letter to him, an account of which I transmitted to your Lordship in my last. My principal aim was, & will continue to be, to inspire energy & vigour in this Govt. & every effort directed to that object cannot but be useful. He informs me however that during the Armistice the Peasants have been armed, & "that the meditated Possessions will be sold dear to the Aggressors." I now learn from Genl. Acton that their Army is in so bad a state as to render the separation of the different Corps necessary. I do not find that he has the smallest hopes that any good will result from

the Russian Minister's presence at the French Head Quarters. Upon the whole, I learn from him that every preparation has been made, & every means left them will be employed to inspire the most vigorous resistance,—I have, &c., (Signed) A. PAGET.

From Sir JOHN BORLASE WARREN *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

MENSANA, OFF MARETINO, *March* 29, 1801.

DEAR SIR,—I received information by the Salamine brig that the French Squadron sailed from Toulon on the 19th inst., & on the 26 I returned off the Island of Toro; & saw them far to windward & chaced them all Day, as they immediately hauled they wind & stood from me under a press of sail, & owing to light winds we could not come up untill the evening when I was within 9 miles of them, but the weather being stormy during the night they hauled, as I suppose, to the Southward & we lost sight of them, as they kept running from us with a crowd of canvas the moment they distinguished what we were. I understand *their object is Egypt* & I am now going on in search of them having been detained off this place by contrary winds two days; the Enemy were 7 sail of the Line and 3 frigates. My force including the Athenian & Alexander is the same number & one Frigate. I earnestly hope either us or Lord Keith may give them the National Embrace *à l'Anglaise*. I learn from Minorca that the convoy is arrived, & strong reports from all Quarters that Mr. Pitt has resigned, Lord Spencer & the Duke of Portland succeeded as it is sayed by Mr. Addington vice Mr. Pitt, Marquis of Landsdowne as Secretary of State & also Lord Buckland & Lord St. Vincent the Admiralty; this is sayed to be *pro tempore*; all this seems extraordinary whether true or False; you have it as it came to me by report.

After I saw you I visited Naples & Mr. Lock was on board this Ship; he says Beaumont is of opinion that Buonaparte will risk everything & even lose 60,000 men in the relief of Egypt, as a proof of it His Squadron being out at present, & also L'Africaine, a frigate with 500 troops and 350 seamen on board, being carried into Mahon

after a desperate action, in which he lost 400 killed and wounded by the Phoebe which I had stationed off Malaga, & her Consort is likewise taken into Gibraltar by another of our Frigates after Action. Both these Vessels were *destined for Alexandria.*

I shall therefore probably visit that Coast before my return when I shall call upon or send to you; in the mean time I wish you could learn if Messina is to be given up to the French as a Cautionary town or a Depôt for smuggling over troops to Egypt; either that town or Syracuse or Tarentum is I hear to be obtained by those gentlemen; at all events I trust H. Sicilian Majesty will keep Sicily sacred or he may be tricked out of it.—I am with much esteem, &c. JOHN BORLASE WARREN.

From Mr. THOS. JACKSON *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

ROME, *March 31st*, 1801.

I did myself the pleasure of writing you a long Letter the 27th Inst wh. I hope you have received: you will know that so far from opposing vigorously the further progress of the french, all their demands have been granted, and that the price of a new Armistice is admitting 12 or 15,000 french troops into the North Coast of Calabria, who are actually on their march; they are to be maintained by the Neapolitans, and every means & facility to be furnished for their Embarkation for Egypt. I understand that nothing is said about Sicily in this Armistice, but that they keep for the *bonne bouche*, and I am persuaded they will not be silent on the subject when peace comes to be treated. You now see the accomplishment of my prophecy—namely, "that great sacrifices would be made to prevent the french from advancing, but that they would advance after all." M. Italinisky's Mission was of no other avail than procuring a delay of six days (and they were dearly paid for) to obtain an answer from Naples, and this Minister was treated very coolly, not to say disrespectfully by Murat, who reproached him with espousing too warmly the cause of Naples, & on Italinsky's urging that M. de Kalitcheff was arrived at Paris with orders to interpose his offices in favour of Naples & that he

had no doubt that Murat would receive instructions in consequence, the latter replied that he had recd. Letters from Bonaparte dated the 13th. (seven days after the arrival of Kalitcheff) which had no counter orders to the instructions which he had long ago received, & wh. were given before there was any question of the Mission of the Russian Ambassador.

The whole of Italy is at this moment at the entire disposition of Bonaparte, & his plan is to employ all its resources in his projects upon Egypt, &c. &c. &c.

Pray do you know anything of the reports we have that Corfu has been abandoned by the Russians in consequence of a rising of the Inhabitants & their declaring in our favour? it seems certain that the Russian frigates wh. were at Corfu are arrived at Brindisi with nearly 2000 Men on board wh. are said to be the garrison of that place.—Adieu, My dear Sir, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS JACKSON.

From General ACTON *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

NAPLES, 31 *March*, 1801.

SIR,—I have received your favor of the 27th and am much obliged to you for the contents. I cannot but think that a defence for Sicily should be required, if any defense may keep us From destruction. You are so kind to remember me a thought of Lord Keith to help us Alas why think's he so late of these poor contryes? he was acquainted at Malta by my letters likewise of our position and demands!! I think certainly that our Troops from Malta would be better in Messina. What shall I say! We are Undone! The good Chev^r Italinsky has intirely miscarryed in his Voyage: his demands have been refused with obstinacy. No regard would be paid to his entreatings, And declarations, he thought proper not to *protest*. So we have at present not the 30,000 in the Popes territorys as far as Rieti, Tivoli, Ascoli & Terni: but the 40,000 besides the 30,000 more in Upper Italy & Romagna congregating to Support the conquest of the two Sicilyes. Alquier arrived the day after Italinsky's departure: he has orders to make up an hard and dishonorable Treaty for us *all at once*, or to leave the

Country to be invaded. Italinsky has had the Declaration that a King should be settled to this nation in both Sicilyes but never the present Family. The same is read to Micheroux in Alquier's instructions. This is the worst Blow to us, as against a Republik we could find help and a kind of standing resolution, but the changing the King for another will disarm immediately the few that were well disposed. We are waiting the Issue of some other Declarations: but I see and find every resolution sheakening on all sides. I confide to you, and beg to be so kind to keep it to yourself the traduction of Kalitchew's letter to Italinsky as late as the 26th of this month. You will see what a consideration has Russia at Paris, and the resolution taken to force us to a Scandalous Peace, as thieves do in the woods with a pistoll to a traveller, but I confide to you likewise the Cypher of Gallo by the same occasion. You will see that with Secrecy the peace is treating with Great Britain, they are playing with the Emperor of Russia, and shall leave him all at once, if he does not take humour himself before this event. Gallo is not acquainted properly with what has done Micheroux, he thinks that from this part we wanted to make peace in Italy, it is the contrary.* Murat in his vanity desired it so, the full powers never were sent but to Paris: and by Italinsky to Micheroux if Alquier came. I am acquainted that the English Minister at Dresden wanted to open himself to a Russian Agent: but Krüdner from Berlin thought proper to go himself to Berlin. Your letters shall go to lord Minto by the first opportunity. Major Keir is gone with M^r. Locke. By the last letters from Madrid we hear that notwistanding all the entreatyes of that Court, the french were entering that Kingdom, proceeding to Portugall.† Azara has not been in time for obtaining the contrary in Paris. The English Ministry is not settled yet, though Lord Hawkesbury has already taken the place of Lord Grenville and received the foreign Ministers. I should be glad to

* See Lord Minto's letter, March 23.

† Lucien Bonaparte made Spain declare war against Portugal in February. In March Portugal was summoned to close its ports to England, and forced to sign a treaty to this effect at Badajoz, June 6. A treaty between France and Portugal was signed, Sept. 29, 1801.

know Admiral Warren of whom I have heard much. The french have quitted Toulon for Egypt it is said.—I have the honor to be constantly with the truest regards. &c. J. ACTON.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord KEITH.

PALERMO, *8th April*, 1801.

MY DEAR LORD,—We yesterday received accounts here of a Peace having been signed between the Neapolitan Government and France.* The contents of it have not yet transpired, the following conditions will I have every reason to suppose form a principal part of it.

The exclusion (as in the late Armistice) of the British flag from His Sicilian Majesty's Ports. Refusal of supplies to great Britain. The occupation of all His Sicilian Majesty's Ports on the Adriatick by a french force. The occupation of a chain of Ports from the Neapolitan frontier to Otranto, Brindisi, &c. by a french force. The occupation of the Isle d'Elbe by the same. The above troops to be detained at the expence of His Sicilian Maj. An article in favour of the Neapolitan Emigrants and Jacobins.

I take the above to be the leading features of the treaty, and in truth nothing can be more dishonorable and humiliating. The avowed object of taking possession of the above Ports is to facilitate the communication of the french with Egypt. It seems to me of the utmost importance that we should use every effort in order either to attack or to blockade the enemy in their new Possessions. In the former case we should, I do not doubt, meet with the hearty co-operation of the Inhabitants, altho' in such an event the consequences might be most fatal to the Country. I shall be extremely anxious to learn your resolutions upon the subject. With regard to Sicily the french have *hitherto* said nothing.

I have very good ground for believing that the Union between Russia and France cannot last. The Ambassador from the former at Paris has met with refusals to all his propositions, and even those have been conveyed to him in a way not calculated to suit the temper of our friend

* Treaty of Florence, signed March 13.

Paul. The french absolutely refused his mediation for the K. of Naples. It is said that we are certainly treating at Paris, which is an additional reason for France to break with the Emperor of Russia. In such an event the former would undoubtedly require of this Country to take the same part against Russia which it has been obliged to do against England, by which means the three frigates of that Nation which are now at Naples would be at your disposal. I fear that the King of Prussia has declared for the Northern Confederacy, and that the occupation of Hanover, and our exclusion from the Elbe and Weser are events at no great distance.*

You will probably have heard that an English Ship of War supposed to be the Petterelle put into Ancona, supposing that Place to belong to the Austrians, and has been captured. She has since been manned by the french and sent to sea, and is supposed to be doing a good deal of mischief in the Adriatick.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* His Excellency Sir JOHN ACTON, Bart.

PALERMO, 18 *April*, 1801.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your Letter of the 31st. March with its enclosures.

I cannot conceal from your Excellency the surprise I feel that I should be indebted to a private letter, and to the rumours which circulate in Palermo, for the accounts of a Peace having been actually signed between the Neapolitan Government and france. I was disinclined to attribute your silence upon the subject to unfavourable motives till after seeing Mr. Serrati; I discovered in him an air of mystery in my opinion ill-suited to the circumstances. That Minister acted no doubt in obedience to his Sovereign's orders, and I shall make no apology for considering that His Sicilian Majesty had acted by your Ex: advice. Now, Sir, upon this conduct my remarks shall be short. I think in the first place that as His Britannic Majesty's Minister I am entitled to the most unlimited confidence of this Government in all its transac-

* This took place in the following June.

tions relating to France, and I am forced to say, as Your Excellency does not seem to feel it, that the manner in which I have acted in this Character has been so peculiarly delicate and friendly towards His Sicilian Majesty during the late distressing events as to give me every possible claim to the attention of his Minister, and it is incredible to think in how glaring an instance these attentions have been wanting. I expected to find in the secret friendship of this Court the test of its real aversion to its new system, first by an open and candid communication of the stipulation it has been obliged to contract, and next by the manner of executing them. If I am to judge by the first of these, I have little to hope for from the other.

In saying this I am willing to repeat to your Excellency my thanks for the confidential manner in which you thought proper to correspond with me down to the above epoch.

Your Excellency asks why Lord Keith thinks so lately of these poor Countries. To this I shall only refer you to the reception Sir John Warren met in the Bays of Palermo and Naples.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

April 21st, AT ANCHOR OFF ALEXANDRIA, 1801.

MY DEAR PAGET,—I have many letters to thank you for and in return I have written many to you but I must confess in General they have contained little our progress is like the creeping of the Snail Slow but I hope sure—The efforts of our troops are unparraleled true Courage was never more conspicuous be assured our misfortune in Sir Ralph * was great in deed and Moores wound continuing so long ill is much felt by the Army Your Brother had a near touch he will write you is well and at his Post the most honorable and essential in the Army—What you wrote me of Ball† and Malta has

* Sir Ralph Abercromby, mortally wounded at the battle of Alexandria, March 21.

† Mr. Paget had on Jan. 2 written to Lord Grenville to propose that a Civil Governor should be appointed to reside in Malta, in order to lessen the alarm of the people at the idea of being subjected to a military government. He recommended Captain Ball for the post.

reached me from other quarters as a duty I hinted to the former Ministers but I found Sir R. and all the Military so hurt at the Idea of a Sea officer being capable of holding such a situation that I became Silent even when I arrived at the Island I found the Ad[e] House a Regt[l] Mess Room of Course remained on board—Here is Sir John Warren for which I am sorry he saw the french but lost them at Night—We hear nothing of them and I fear they may fall back take in troops and Conquer Minorca We go on very slow here are their no men of sense in our Army if so why not employ them 23d April Rosetta is ours and the Vizier at Damitta His troops at Lalaheigh Balkis and the Gates of Cairo 10,000 March hence this day for Rachmania.—Most sincerly yours ever KEITH.

Ball has just joined me. This instant I have letters from Blanket there is a great Army in the Red Sea Lallaheigh and Tinch, Balkis &c. are in the hands of the Vizier.

I am importuned by a friend of mine to apply to the King and Gen[l] Acton in favor a Princess Paterno confined for a Crime not uncommon I fear my influence is very feeble but if you can help the fair sufferer I will be obliged or if you think I can write me and I will try K.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, 23*rd April*, 1801.

MY DEAR SIR,—. . . . In two words let me say that having been made acquainted with the reasons which constrained Gen[l] Acton to sanction the 2[d] Armistice and the subsequent peace, I am in my own mind strongly inclined to admit the necessity under which he has acted. The intention of the Enemy, *it is clear*, is to conquer the Kingdom and probably dispose of it to the best bidder. They would have accomplished that object instantly by a rupture. They still intend to accomplish it; but the process must be somewhat slower, & some little time is gain'd to obtain such support, either political or military, as may by possibility interpose yet in time to save Naples

& disappoint the enemy. I have no right to offer opinions on this subject, but you have kindly accustom'd me to think aloud or on paper with you. This point is undoubtedly so important that Government can alone pronounce upon it, & must dictate ultimately the language of its ministers abroad. But in the mean while it seems to me both agreeable to the character, and consonant to the practice, of our Government to shew rather sympathy & indulgence than resentment to friends whose sincerity & fidelity have been so well proved in a moment of extreme necessity, & while those compliances which bear an unfriendly aspect towards us are accompanied by others which seal their own ruin, & must therefore be the effect of absolute compulsion. I need not speak to you of the passage of the Sound on the 30th March, nor the glorious & successful attack on the maritime defences of Copenhagen on the 2^{d} April by Nelson. The enemy lost 13 ships amongst which two of the line & 2000 men. We must have suffered in men, the battle having being well fought, but nothing in ships, & the victory was complete, anihilating one wing of the defence which protected the town & arsenal. An armistice was the consequence, which was to last till the 8th inst. & by that time the news of Paul's death * must probably have led to an accommodation.

Sir Ralph you know landed on the peninsula of Aboukir the 8th March—advanced on the 12th within 5 miles of Alexandria—was attack'd the 13th and repulsed the enemy with loss—on the 21st he was attack'd by Menou in person and obtained a signal victory. The French lost 2000 killed and wounded and 500 prisoners. We lost 500 kill'd and wounded—the castle of Aboukir had surrender'd to us—our troops have behaved most admirably.—Believe me, &c. MINTO.

From H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES *to the* Hon. ARTHUR PAGET.

April 23, 1801.

MY DEAR ARTHUR,—I have only this minute learnt that Morand is going to take his departure for Palermo,

* Assassinated March 11.

& indeed young Hunter is now waiting a few minutes for my scrawl; I therefore take up my Pen to scribble a few Lines to recall myself to your recollection, notwithstanding that it is now above four months since I received a Line from you. The present situation of politicks both at home and abroad, & the various changes that have taken place since we met, my dear Friend, are so curious that unless we were to meet again & converse them over *de vive voix* it is hardly possible to discuss them over, especially in so hurried a manner as that in which I am now compelled to write to you in from the sudden departure of Morand. You must have learnt the dreadful state of the K——'s health, which has thrown me into the most awkward and difficult predicament, but in which I have had the good fortune to conduct myself so as to carry with me the general approbation of the Country, though one must always expect there will be in this World a certain number of Grumblers, though there have been fewer upon this occasion than ever yet have been known upon any circumstance which has so much interested the public mind. Unfortunately it is not yet over, as we have had a severe relapse, and all I can say to you, my Friend, upon this subject is *que je tâcherai de me conduire vis à vis de Dieu, mon Père, et le Pays, comme un homme d'honneur doit se conduire.* The dear Duchess is still at Belvoir, and has been there near five weeks. I have had one Letter from Her, in which she asks me the same question that I will ask you, my dearest Arthur, & that is, why you remain now at Palermo that there is nothing absolutely to be done by a Minister of our Court there (at least ostensibly) & why you do not return home directly; pray give us a little insight into what is likely to be your destiny, and when there is the smallest probability of our embracing you again; rest assured though of this, my dear Friend, that whether abroad or present my affection for you can never waver or change, & shall continue, *arrivera ce qui pourra,* equally alive to your interests and ready to promote your wishes with that lively affection and friendship I ever have professed towards you, & ever must feel to the latest hour of my existance. But Chig, and the old set are still pretty *bobish,* thank God, but never cease to unite

with me in lamenting your absence, who always animate us all. Mother Hump is rather indisposed, but as to the rest they are all just as they were. My Letter is again called for, I therefore have only time to pray God bless you dear Arthur, pray let me hear from you as frequently as you can, and never again send over Morand without a few Lines to me, but the best thing you can do is to come yourself on any account, at all events recollect an old Proverb that I am afraid has but too much to do with public life "Out of sight, out of mind." Why I say this just now is that notwithstanding all the hints I have given in various quarters, I hear that whenever the K—— is in a situation to name a Minister to go to Petersburg, St Helens, though a great friend of mine, is pitched upon as the man to be nominated for that Mission. Whitworth who is now married to the Duchess of Dorset is nominated for Paris, in case Buonaparte chooses to negotiate. In short, dear Arthur, if you do not speak for yourself and aid us a little here, I am fearful we shall not be so successful as I thought as well as Garshere we should have been a few weeks back. I must absolutely here conclude desiring you to imagine any thing that can be said that is most affectionate by you, from Your ever & most sincere Friend, GEORGE.

CARLTON HOUSE, *April 23rd*, 1801.

P.S.—Excuse haste and any fault there may be in this scrawl as I have not time to read it over or to correct it.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to the* Countess of UXBRIDGE.

PALERMO, *April* 24, 1801.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—I seize with particular satisfaction the first opportunity of acknowledging & returning you my sincere thanks for your very kind & interesting letter of the 13th. Febry.

I will venture to say, that you have not experienced more thorough dissatisfaction than myself at the late changes which have taken place in England. I never had, & I dare say never should have had a moment's

uneasiness about the situation of the Country had the late Ministers remained in Office. I own to you that I do not consider their successors as equal to the times. I will not say more, otherwise I may be supposed to talk treason. With regard to the question of Catholic Emancipation upon which you flatter me by asking my opinion, I must acknowledge that I am decidedly a well wisher to the measure. The objections which might formerly have presented themselves to it seem to me in a great measure, if not entirely, done away by the conduct of the Catholics relative to the Union. It appears to me that they have given the strongest proof of their attachment and Fidelity to the King & his Government that could be required of them. The cause of Roman Catholic and Jacobite were formerly much blended together; from the total extinction of the House of Stuart, all apprehensions upon that subject must be removed. Nor can I imagine that the Protestant Religion would risk the slightest shock from the Measure. We have I believe already granted some indulgences to the Roman Catholics in England without having felt the smallest inconvenience from it. The only scruples which I should think likely to arise in the King's mind upon the consideration of this Question must, I should imagine, have reference to former times, and perhaps have created therefore invincible prejudices in Him. One of our Kings was cruelly dealt with, for having tampered with the Catholics. Of course I cannot mean to intimate the smallest analogy of the cases, but there is no answering for Impressions. With respect to Mr. Pitt having pledged the King to the measure without having previously informed him, I do not know enough of that part of the subject to have an opinion upon it. I can only say that I have such thorough confidence in and veneration for Mr. Pitt, that I had rather be guided by his judgment on a Question of such Importance & magnitude than by that of any other man in Europe. If it is my opinion (& I hold it to be demonstrable) that the King owes his existence to Mr. Pitt, I cannot suppose that the latter would advise a measure hostile to the Interest and safety of the Crown. You will I am sure give credit to the anxiety of my mind. The country stands in need of the united efforts of such men as Mr. Pitt, Ld. Spencer, &

Ld. Grenville, & I know not where three others are to be found, who ought to replace them.

Since writing the above, a Sloop of War is arrived here, which has brought me letters from Egypt and among others from Edward. . . . . I am happy to tell you that that famous fellow Edward is well, & I hear that he has highly distinguished himself. Gen[l]. Pigot writes me word from Malta "*You will have heard from Egypt of the gallant Conduct of your Brother Edward.*" This however is all I have heard on the subject. The 28th. was one of the first Regiments that landed. . . . .

To go to a much less important subject, I might now say a word about myself. I will own to you that I am extremely concerned that my Father should have gone so immediately to Lord Hawkesbury, tho' it is not necessary to say that his motive has filled me with the utmost gratitude towards him. In the first place I am fearful lest the acceptance of any appointment granted by the new Administration may be construed into either an open or tacit concurrence of their measures, & particularly that relating to Catholic Emancipation—a measure for which I have already declared myself to you an advocate. In the next place, I will fairly own to you that I am no longer desirous of *seeking* a new situation in my present line of profession, I have on the contrary a variety of very strong reasons for wishing to quit it altogether. My principal reason certainly is the insufficiency of the pay, & the consequent burthen I must be to my Father & Family. The above are to me two most insuperable objections to my remaining any longer in the line. With regard to the circumstance of my living out of England, I can with great truth assure you that my personal convenience & comfort is a matter of a secondary consideration, which I do not allow to enter into the balance. But supposing such to be my future lot in this world, would it not be more satisfactory to my feelings, would it not be more grateful to yourself, my Father, & my friends, that it should be an act of Government ?, that is, that I should be selected by the King & his Ministers as a proper person to represent His Majesty at a Foreign Court. I have now been on and off (to make use of a vulgar expression) above ten years at this work, and if at the end of that

time I am to be employed only by dint of *Family Interest*, be assured the situation cannot be worth having.

The extent of my abilities are known by the old, & can easily be ascertained by any new Administration. If they are wanted, they will be called for, and if they were called for, that indeed would be a proud event, I may I believe say for us all. Alas! the contrast of the two situations is as striking as what passed probably in Hamlet's mind when he says "*Look here upon this picture, & on this—The Counterfeit presentment, &c.*" My profession cannot be compared with any other. A Man may ask for a Ship, for promotion in the Army, or in the Church, without risking the imputation of Vanity, but to solicit a situation wherein the most consummate abilities & address may not only upon particular occasions, but for a length of time & continually, be required in order to succeed in the object, is tantamount to a declaration that one possesses all these qualities, a declaration which would come much more satisfactorily from the Government than from oneself. With regard to my present Mission, I cannot conceal from you that I am thoroughly tired, not to say worse, of it, not so much for private as for public reasons. I therefore sincerely trust, if it is not yet settled so, that I may be immediately recalled, or at least receive a leave of Absence till my successor is named. I express this strongly to Garthshere to whom I shall be obliged to you to repeat it. I dislike more than I can express that Ld. Hawkesbury should have been applied to about me. I think it a bad compliment to Ld. Grenville whom I shall consider my friend untill I am convinced by proof of the contrary.

You will easily imagine all I suffer on the subject of the King's illness, & nothing but contradictory reports reach me.

I am ashamed to begin a third sheet, but I have now done. I fear I have been a little angry in speaking of my situation here, but things happen now & then which require more *sang froid* to meet than I fear I possess.

Good-bye my dear Mother, pray remember me to every body & Believe me, Your most dutiful & Affectionate Son, (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord HAWKESBURY.

PALERMO, *Apl.* 24, 1801.

MY LORD,—It is now about a fortnight since the account of a Peace having been signed between H.S.M^{y} & France arrived here, upon the Subject of which I have received no *official* intimation whatever from this Gov^{t}. Immediately after the above intelligence was received I wrote to Gen^{l} Acton expressing my surprize at his silence upon so important an occasion, & stating to him the right which I conceived myself to have, as His M$^{y's}$ Minister, of being informed of all transactions between this Court & the French Gov^{t}—a right which I asserted I had an additional claim to from the very temperate, dispassionate, & even friendly conduct I had exercised towards H.S.M. at a moment when He (altho' indeed forced to it) was committing open acts of nearly Hostility against His Majesty. I did not write this letter untill I had waited upon M^{r} Serrati, who acts as Minister for Foreign Affairs here, and had discovered in him an air of mystery in the discussion which I unreservedly condemned and complained of, and of which I brought him to acknowledge the bad policy, the bad faith, and the absurdity. I sent my letter to G. Acton by a Neapolitan Frigate which returned the night before last from Naples. Your Lordship will I am confident not be less surprized & shocked than I am at learning that that Minister has not thought proper to return any answer whatever to my letter. I therefore called yesterday morning upon M^{r} Serrati, & desired him to lay before H.S.M^{y} a formal complaint on my part against His Minister Gen^{l} Acton, for conduct which I considered as disrespectful & rude to the highest degree, and which at the same time bore with it appearances so extremely suspicious that I should feel it my duty to Y^{r} L^{p} to represent by a special messenger all the circumstances in the same unfavourable light in which they appeared to me, & that, as I considered the affront personal as well as public, I should feel it incumbent on me humbly to request His Majesty to recall me. M^{r}. Serrati here interrupted me to express his concern & sorrow at this apparent violation of duty & neglect on the part of

Gen[l] Acton, & begged that I would not take any steps untill he had seen H.S.M[y] which he promised to do in the evening. I then observed to him how much I conceived it to be the Interest of His Sovereign to make an unreserved and confidential communication to his oldest and most faithful Ally of his situation and transactions relative to France, who was evidently aiming at separating Him from that Ally, and I thought it right to recapitulate the many instances of moderation and friendship of His Majesty towards this Country which, in the present instance, had been so ill-repaid. I then proceeded to say that the reports which had reached me of the French General Baraquay d'Hillier's being arrived at Naples for the express purpose of requiring all Neapolitan Shipping, in order to send French Troops to Egypt, were of a nature which obliged me to demand an unreserved and unequivocal explanation of what were His Sicilian Majesty's intentions at the present moment, and I concluded by saying that if I observed that H.S.M. did actually afford the succours required of him, I could not consider such conduct in any other light than as an open act of Hostility against His Majesty.

I this day saw M[r] Serrati again. He informed me that he had seen H.S.M[y] yesterday evening, & that upon acquainting him with the conversation which had taken place between us, H.S.M[y] appeared & expressed himself more shocked & concerned at the behaviour of General Acton than even M[r] Serrati had expected to find him. Little or nothing was offered in extenuation of it, but the King immediately declared that he would write himself upon the Subject to Gen[l] Acton; M[r] Serrati upon this occasion received H.S.M[y's] commands to repeat to me the assurances of his inviolable friendship and attachment to His Majesty & to the English Nation; which was followed by very flattering expressions about myself. He was also desired to acquaint me that altho' H.S.M[y] could not declare it publicly, he most cordially rejoiced in the glorious achievements of His Majesty's Army in Egypt. Upon that particular circumstance therefore of General Acton's conduct which might be supposed to proceed solely from inattention, I expressed myself satisfied

with the part which H.S.M^{y} had been pleased to take, but with regard to the other considerations which it gave rise to in my mind, & which I entered so widely upon yesterday with M^{r} Serrati I expressed myself much surprized that he had not thought proper to take any notice of them. I therefore again repeated that it became my indispensable duty to ask for an unequivocal declaration of H.S.M$^{y's}$ Intentions. He thereupon replied that His Sicilian Majesty's intentions were just, fair, & honorable, & that he had been forced to do as he has done. He said with respect to the Treaty of Peace that he had not yet communicated it to me because it was not in a state to be communicated, that what had in fact been signed had not yet been ratified, and that H.S.M. had still some hopes that it might be in his power to have some of the most offensive articles modified, but that in fact the King himself did not know what was the actual state of these negotiations: he expressed himself perfectly ignorant of the demands which had been, or were likely to be made, by the French General above mentioned, an assertion which I can give no credit whatever to, altho' I am in general well convinced that H.S.M$^{y's}$ Ministers know very little of the actual state of affairs at Naples. As to the Treaty itself I have good reason to believe that it was sent by Gen^{l} Acton straight to H.S.M^{y} who, after having made his remarks upon it, and pointed out his objections to it, returned it to that Minister without communicating it to any one of His Ministers here. All that I learn from M^{r} Serrati on the Subject is that it is modelled upon a proposed project of further Armistice, a copy of which I transmitted at the time to the Office; but a curious circumstance is (as I am informed) that the Articles which admit of the occupation of the Ports in the Adriatic by the French are Secret Articles.

What the motives of this Government can be for adopting this mistaken policy of secrecy towards the Minister of their best Ally, what benefits they can hope to derive from it, or what present or future good purpose it is expected to answer, I cannot pretend to calculate. Your Lordship will, I am persuaded, observe that my Conduct & language till latterly have been mild in the extreme, because I have seen and experienced the in-

credible weakness, moral as well as physical, of the Government, & because I have felt that harshness and menaces would not induce them to act otherwise, and further because in the commencement of their misfortunes I received constant & unequivocal proofs of the confidence of H.S.M$^{y's}$ Ministers. I am unwilling now to accuse them of anything like hostile designs, but their silence certainly carries with it something extremely suspicious. H.S.M^{y} in this as indeed in nearly every thing else is totally guided by Gen^{l} Acton, who has throughout shewn himself to be a weak & undecided man. From all the resolutions he formed of stirring up the Country to resist the French & of selling the Conquest dearly to the Enemy, I never allowed myself to cherish the slightest Hope. (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord KEITH.

PALERMO, 24*th Ap^{l}*. 1801.

Your presence, My Dear Lord, is absolutely necessary here (as soon as you can get rid of your present engagements) either to controul this Power or to assist it. At all events pray contrive to send us some force into this part of the world and the Adriatic, for I insist again that the preparations making by the French in the Peninsula of Naples are most serious. It has been surmised to me that they meditate a *coup de main* against Malta, which is not improbable if they give up Egypt. H.S.M^{y} sent me word yesterday that altho' He could not declare it publickly no one rejoiced more than himself in our successes in Egypt. I am very awkwardly and unpleasantly situated. I see all the mischief going on, and see the weakness, both moral & Physical, of these people, without any force to back my representations. My opinion is that this Island is gone if we don't prevent it; they will not fight alone, and with us would I believe defend themselves.

I have letters from Naples which say that the French Army in that Country desert in numbers and refuse to embark. I wish it may be so.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord MINTO.

PALERMO, *April* 25, 1801.

MY LORD,—. . . . I scarcely ever felt more satisfaction at any political event than I have experienced at hearing of the death of the late E : of Russia.* That, together with our operations in the Baltic, the defeat of the French in Egypt, and the recovery of the King, which account has just reached me, & from whose illness the French Govt expected no doubt to reap some advantage, are important events indeed, & such as I trust cannot fail ultimately to bring Bonaparte to reason.

Your Lordship will have discovered from the tenor of my dispatches how entirely I enter into the ideas you have suggested to me with regard to the situation of these Countries. Had I given credit to all that has been said & written to me upon the subject, I should have expected that the Neapolitan Government would have resisted the invasion of the Enemy. Had it done so, it is still a question to me whether they would not have been able to procure to themselves better and more honourable terms. It is extremely unfortunate that we have at this time had no force here to second my representations, for I am (sure) that if the Neapolitans had been properly managed, and that we had had a few sail of the line there, the Enemy would never have got admittance there. I speak supposing our last accounts to be true that a corps of 10,000 men were within 20 miles of that place. I cannot get the people here to speak out, their conduct forms the strangest mixture. I constantly receive the most obliging messages from His S.My. from which one might suppose that he wished to keep upon good terms with us; on the other hand, whether it really proceeds from the difficulties they are in (which is not impossible) or from what other motive I cannot say, but the reserve and silence with regard to their situation in general at Naples, with regard to their granting of peace, with regard to what they must or ought to know to be the immediate views and operations of the French in their Country, is really inconceivable. As to General Acton I really believe that the

* Paul's son, Alexander, was opposed to the Armed Neutrality, and reversed his father's policy.

times are too hardly pressing upon him & that he has lost his head. He is I believe an honest man, and that is all I can say for him. I lament, my Lord, the situation of H.S.M^y, but indeed he is indebted to himself for it; he has had near two years to put his Country into a state of deffence, and during that time not an improvement of any sort whatever either in his Army, Navy, or fortresses has been made; (always trusting of his Army, against whom His Ministers are always braying out, for the defence of his Dominions). I do not say that he would have come off victorious, but I Certainly Cannot think but that he might have made a very good fight, by which means he certainly would have insured to himself the good will and admiration of the forces; & this would have been the case had Gen^l Acton, who had the whole resources at his disposal, acted with the same degree of spirit that Gallo has done at Paris. Your Lordship may be sure that I will not fail to represent to H.S.My the conduct of the latter in the very favorable point of view you have represented it, & which I dare say is not felt as it ought to be. I hope your Lordship will not think that I have been too harsh with this government, for I should think it my duty to go much further lengths had I the Co-operation of an English Squadron. Words are of no avail in times like these, & I am of opinion that we should go to any length rather than risk the arrival of Succour from the Enemy in Egypt. With regard to Sicily I have the most solemn promises and assurances to rest upon, that in case of an attempt to invade it a proper resistance will be shewn; without nothing has been said by the french about it, but we are for that not the less exposed to their infamous Intentions; on the other hand, notwithstanding all I can say or do I see little or no preparations going on for deffence. What therefore I have just said above is more grounded upon what I hope from the implacable Enmity of the Sicilian to the french, than from any confidence I have in the vigour of this Government.

Having said all this, I beg to assure your Lordship of the presumption I am in that H.S.M. is most cordially attached to his majesty and the English nation; and that he has seen with the utmost grief the probabilities of

being forced to separate his interests from those of Gt. Britain. I say separate, for it seems to me impossible that the french should allow him to maintain his neutrality. I therefore fear that self defence will oblige us to act in a manner so repugnant to the feelings which your Lordship expresses with so much reason to be those of his majesty towards the King of Naples. If, as it would appear, the latter is competent to furnish shipping for the transport of french troops to Egypt, I presume that we must use every means in our power in order to counteract their hostilities, and blockade his ports, and even Naples itself: and I trust that we may not be driven to make use of even stronger measures.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord KEITH.

PALERME, *le* 29 *April*, 1801.

MY LORD,—I transmit to you with the present, a letter from the admiralty, which I have this moment received *via* Vienna. I understand that you will have received your instructions relative to the Conduct to be observed by our naval Commanders in the Mediterranean with respect to this Court, which I understand are, not to enter the Sicilian and Neapolitan Ports, and to refrain from any other act of violence which might expose H.S.M^{y}. or his territories or Subjects to any fresh and additional demands and Insult from the french on that pretence. I cannot help thinking that these instructions must have been made out before it was known or even imagined in England that the Ports of His S.M^{y}. were to be occupied by a french force, and consequently that this government would be required to assist in furnishing Succours for their expedition to Egypt, measures which are evidently acts of positive and violent Hostility on the part of His S.M^{y}., and that of course they cannot be meant to extend to the present Circumstances. You will I am confident excuse the liberty I take in suggesting these considerations, I am of course most anxious to learn your decision and intentions upon the Subject.

From Mr. Thos. Jackson *to the* Hon. A. Paget.

Rome, *May 5th*, 1801.

The reason of my troubling you now is to inform you that yesterday a Messenger arrived here from Leghorn with information that on the 30th April the Squadron of Admiral Gantheaume appeared off that Port, in all twelve sail, and that he had sent two frigates the Hercule and the Badine into the roads with a demand of provisions and refreshments; although I have no doubt that this intelligence will have reached you before this Letter, yet I am unwilling to omit any chance of giving you an opportunity of learning an affair of such importance to us, and of transmitting it to Sir John Borlase Warren and our Commanders in the Mediterranean. Altho' I daresay you will be of my opinion in thinking that the object of Admiral Gantheaume is to carry succours to Egypt and that he will lose no time in endeavouring to accomplish it, yet there are not wanting other opinions upon the subject and that the French Admiral has designs upon Sardinia; however improbable this appears, convinced as I am that he has higher game in view, I mention it that you may not be uninformed of all the ideas, probable or not, which exist on such a subject.

I think it probable that Gantheaume went to Leghorn to take on board about two thousand men, who were there, but it happened that four days before his arrival these men revolted on rec^{s} an order to embark, as it was pretended, for Elba and Corsica; suspecting or perhaps informed of the design of sending them to Egypt they refused to obey; Gen^{l} Murat was sent for and he harangued them but to no purpose; 1500 Cavalry were sent to enforce the order, but they refused to act against their Countrymen; the men were immediately ordered to march for France, and to lose their pay. At Otranto a scene of the same sort has been exhibited and it is most certain that throughout Italy the French troops have shown the most decided aversion to the Egyptian expedition and have manifested their determination not to embark. I hope the good news which has arrived of their defeat near Alexandria will confirm their dispositions in this respect.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

AT ANCHOR BEFORE ALEXANDRIA, *May 9th*, 1801.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I have got your many letters up to the 24th April for which I thank you very kindly Your next I think will be interesting when it is known how the death of Emperour Paul Works on affairs in the North. I am taking all the care I can of you and all the others who are in want but I laugh at Malta and *Coup de Main* How are the Proud fallen I am seriously applied to by the Commandant for Naval protection My last from England by Constantinople led me to Hope our King was quite well I hope it is so a friend of mine writes the Administration *intended* was the Cold Calves Head Hashed up again without the brains of Military affairs I write not your Brother can tell you better of them Murad Bey is dead our fleet certainly in the Red Sea and I hope the troops Gen[l] Hutchinson has advanced towards Rachmania there is 30 arm'd Vessels on the Nile and I can fit more if required they have hitherto got nothing into Alexandria and although I am obliged to go to Aboukir sometimes I hope it is pretty well Watched—You will have a Squadron near you before you get this. I have great dependance upon my Turks we are on the best of terms—I am sorry for what you write about a certain person perhaps it proceeds from fear to offend after all this Expedition cost Naples dear but who could have forseen its being spun out to such a length. 10th. Our Army advanced the Enemy abandoned that Post at Elast which was reckon'd so strong I have no doubt they will do the like at Rachmania they will not soon forget the 8th of April 13th and 21st I hear they quited their Guns and some gunboates, 11th May I am this instant informed the french have surrendered at Rachmania but the Pacha who is my only correspondant does not mention the Numbers, *He says the turks lost* 150 *men your Brave Nation does not fail to have its share Long live our Emperor and your King* I add the same Wish for you and am Sincerely KEITH.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to the* Countess of UXBRIDGE.

PALERMO, 20 *May*, 1801.

You will see by my letter to my Father this day that Lord St. Vincent's opinion of Edward is not a singular one, I can assure you that my friend Lord Keith entertains precisely the same, indeed all those who know him must unite in it—so like him, not to say one word of his being wounded. He is thank God quite recovered, but I know no particulars whatever of the Circumstances attending it. . . . .

I am extremely grateful for all your kind wishes for me to have been in England when the change of Ministry took place, but *entre nous*, I am rejoiced to have been absent, for I know that my Father's affection & zeal for me would have led him to have solicited a situation for me, & the horror I have of what is called *a Place* is more than I can describe. The time may perhaps come, when something may be offered to me, till then all I ask is, to live a quiet & retired life. I am extremely anxious for the return of Morand who will I trust be the bearer of my future destiny. . . . .

I am now living entirely almost in the Country. A Nobleman of this Country has been so obliging as to lend me his House, which is close upon the Sea at about 10 miles from hence. I am up generally before 5, take a great deal of exercise & bathe constantly in the Sea; by these means I am much better than I ever have been since I came here. What a Country this would be under a good Government! Adieu my dear Mother, pray give my love to all with you, & believe me ever Your most dut. & Aff. Son (Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, 13*th May*, 1801.

MY DEAR SIR,—As Morand carries the latest accounts from London I have little to inform you of. I cannot see the dangerous & I may almost say hopeless state of Naples without real affliction. But I have little comfort

or encouragement to offer you from anything that is yet to be perceived on the continent. A powerful & sincere concert of the principal Continental Courts with G^t^ Britain could save the ruin that is at present impending over so many countries, & could fix the security of Europe on a firm basis. There never was a more favourable moment for such a system; but it supposes some degree of enlarged wisdom, & a considerable degree of energy where none of these qualities are at present perceptible, & I own my hopes are low. The resolution to unite Piedmont to France seems to be taken. Since Austria chooses to be null, & since Russia is not attended to at Paris, we must expect to see the restlessness & ambition & avidity of France break thro' the few limits she affected to observe, & overrun all the defenceless parts of Europe. I cannot understand the apathy & blindness of the greater powers to such events, but I see that they exist.

(A private letter of the same date from Lord Minto to Mr. Paget mentions his approaching return to England, and proceeds:)

I am not inform'd officially who my successor is to be, but from private information I am induced to believe that Lord Carysfort is intended for Vienna, & that Berlin will be proposed to you. If this intelligence is true Morand no doubt carries you the official notification of that arrangement. You must allow me to assure you most sincerely of the satisfaction I shall feel in any thing that may prove agreeable to you. I have derived great comfort & pleasure from the friendly correspondence that has subsisted between us, & it has been one of my principal gratifications to make my share of it as acceptable and agreeable to you as our distance & the difficulty of communication admitted of. I shall at the same time always consider the opportunity which our official relation has afforded me of acquiring and cultivating your friendship as a great happiness, & I trust that friendship will long survive the temporary occasion which gave birth to it. Straton remains Chargé d'Affaires. I will not positively take leave of you to-day, meaning to

avail myself of any opportunity that may occur for Naples or Palermo before my departure. But in case that should not occur I beg to retain a place in your kind recollection & to be assured of the affection & regard with which I ever am, &c. MINTO.

From Lord MINTO *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

VIENNA, *18th May*, 1801.

I have to day rec[d] an official notification from L[d] Hawkesbury that you are appointed to Vienna. I rejoice in this arrangement most heartily, & I congratulate you on a situation which must I think, in all respects be agreeable to you. I have no doubt of its becoming soon once more a scene of great importance. My intention was, as you will have perceived in my letters by Morand, to avail myself as speedily as possible of my leave of absence, meaning to pass thro' Berlin & give L[d] Carysfort such information as I possess on the business of this Court. I shall now think it my duty to wait for your arrival & to offer you every assistance in my power in the first moments of your installation at Vienna, & I shall do this with equal zeal & pleasure— & I am particularly happy in the opportunity which is thus afforded me of seeing you once more, & passing I suppose a fortnight in your company, before I leave the continent & quit this career. I must at the same time express a wish that your arrival may not be long delay'd, as I have the strongest motives for wishing to return as early as possible to England. I have supposed that I might have the pleasure of seeing you here in about six weeks from this time. . . . .

The answer from Petersburgh to the first overtures of reconciliation which went from this Court after the accession of Alexander I. are extremely favourable. I have reason to think that our English negotiations with France are likely to come to nothing. The moderation of the enemy does not seem to be increased by our successes. The fact is that France has yet many easy & valuable conquests to make on the Continent. Spain I consider as doom'd to share the fate of the low Countries, Piedmont & all the neighbours of the French

Revolution. They will introduce french Armies into Spain under pretence of attacking Portugal. They will bate the snare by the offer of Portugal to Spain. They will require an equivalent province for France on the other side of the Pyrenees & having once made a lodgement by this means in the very body of Spain they will swallow up Spain, Portugal, & all. Italy is already theirs from Turin to Brindisi. I say nothing of Neapolitan affairs, expecting to see you soon & talk over all our joint & several concerns. You will have seen, however, that on a cool review of the arduous & painful question on which Gen[l] Acton had to pronounce, I am disposed to do more than acquit that Minister, & to think that his judgment may have been the best that the case admitted of.—Believe me ever &c. MINTO.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

FOUDROYANT, OFF ALEXANDRIA, *18th May*, 1801.

SIR,—I am honoured with your letters of the 25th and 29th ultimo, and have likewise received a copy of the Secretary of State's letter to you on the subject of restraining British Ships from entering the Sicilian Ports, and the commands of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty consequent thereupon, previously to the receipt of any of which, I had given directions respecting the conduct to be observed by the Officers of the Navy towards the King of Naples and His Subjects, whose situation has rendered indispensible the apparently harsh measure towards Britain, to which the necessity of the times has compelled him to agree.

But I must request, Sir, you will inform His Sicilian Majesty's Minister, that I am given to understand there is a French Admiral at Naples, who is actually fitting out Neapolitan Ships and Vessels to act against the King or His Allies; and that some of his Sicilian Majesty's frigates have even sailed from Messina towards Brindisi, or other Ports in the Adriatic, for the purpose of receiving on board the Enemy's troops, having hostile intentions against us.

His Majesty's Ministers must have been unacquainted, Sir, with such outrageous proceedings, at the time when

a resolution so delicate and respectful towards His Sicilian Majesty was adopted by them. But if it shall appear that His Sicilian Majesty's Ships are used, or allowed to be used against the King, or that His Harbours are opened to the French for the purpose of equipping Armaments against His Majesty, or His Allies, it is inconsistent with my duty to observe a neutrality; but on the contrary, I shall feel bound to use such means as are in my power for opposing, and, if possible, preventing any acts of violence so indecent, so shameful and notorious, from being carried into effect: And I request that you will be pleased, Sir, to signify to the Sicilian Minister, that I have instructed His Majesty's Officers accordingly. —I have the honour, &c. KEITH.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

May 19th, 1801, OFF ALEXANDRIA.

MY DEAR PAGET,—I am this instant honored by your letters of the 25 & 29th April. I answer you in a publick letter, you are good to wish me with you would I were any where but *where I am* our Ideas are not of the same sort in War but here I shall live and die the Captain Pacha sent me a note this morning to say the flottilla which I had ordered to advance to Cairo or until it was *beaten* had been attacked by the Enemy by Land & Water the Pacha Landed the Gun boats did their business so well that 17 of the french each with a 32 pound Gun are taken & killed Wounded and Prisoners 400; it happened at Shamum in sight of Cairo he adds my friend I go on, I have before me the Accounts of Genl Bairds arrival in the Red Sea and Coll Munioz from Bombay the numbers are considerable but not specified, I shall feel very sory to act against the King of Naples because I think for this expedition undertaken at an ill Season we abandoned Naples and all Italy my heart lay in that Interest and with a few troops much good might have been done and reputation saved, but if His Majesties Ships are used against us I must come forward and give permission to the Barbary States to Cruize near the Island of Sicily at present forbidden to them, forgive this hasty Sribble from affectionately Yours (Signed) KEITH.

From the Hon. A. PAGET *to* Lord HAWKESBURY

19 *May*, 1801.

[*Cypher.*] I forbore to name that subject when I first heard it mentioned, but I now feel it incumbent on me to say that Mr. Serrati has informed me that His Sicilian Majesty has received intelligence that the Emperor, in order to get back Tuscany for his brother, has offered to sacrifice the Kingdom of Naples.—I have, &c.

(Signed) ARTHUR PAGET.

From Lord GRENVILLE *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

DROPMORE, *June* 10, 1801.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have many thanks to return you for the kindness of your letter, and I beg you to be persuaded that in all circumstances & situations I shall always set the highest value on your friendship & good opinion.

Accept my best congratulations on your appointment to Vienna, a station which under every political change that can occur must afford the best opportunities of exerting to the benefit of your country those abilities of which I have seen so many proofs.—Believe me ever, &c. (Signed) GRENVILLE.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon A. PAGET.

June 10*th*, 1801, OFF CAPE BOSSO (?).

MY DEAR PAGET,—I have yours of the 18th May this moment Admiral Ganthome appeared on this Coast four days ago of which I had advice and looked for him, this morning five Vessels were between me and the Shore one a Corvette got in, (No troops in her) the other four are taken with troops ammunition Comedians &c I have learnt of the Prisoners that Ganthome sent three Ships of the line and one frigate to Toulon with Sick men he came here with 4 of the line one frigate and some Smaller Vessels with 3000 troops on board very Sickly. He intended to Land to the West of Arabs town and ordered 10 pounds of Bread and two Bottles of Water for each man, by a Mistake in his Reckoning He anchored at Lacuste 50 Leagues to the West and there heard from

a Greek I was off Arabs town he examined the Coast and found it impracticable, He was now discovered by some of the frigates upon which He cut his Cables and Stood to Sea since which I have heard no more of him, I have divided my Squadron by sending Sir Rich[d] Bickerton to the Westward and remaining off alexandria myself to take both Chances in case He thinks of returning this way but if they do not I think they will call upon you their good Alies to land their Sick.—I am very sincerely my Dear Paget ever yours, (Signed) KEITH.

The Ships of the King of Naples are protecting Ships of the enemy under their Convoy You may assure the Minister that Notwithstanding my High respect for His Sicilian Majesty and all the Nation I find myself called upon to do my duty. (Signed) KEITH.

12th. No tidings of the french as yet our Army has advanced a few Miles, why are you not a General instead of an Ambassador The Vizier is reinforced Osman Bey with 2000 Mamelukes has joined our Army 300 British from the Ad Ship at Suez has joined the Vizier 1500 of the same army are landed at Cosci, all the rest I fear have lost their passage they came to Judda, Ad Blankert left orders to follow him to Suez it seems Lord Welesly had not instructed the Land officers to be directed on board by Him and they sent up for information during which delay the Men soon Changed and they have lost their passage for this year the Ad has gone down to Judda to try what he can do I suspect very Little do not mention this in Sicily it is gone to England.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

June 10.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—I got your letter and most heartily congratulate you on the appointment to Vienna as Successor to my good friend Minto. I do not know where you may get this but it is to say I have written to Malta to do what is possible for your Accomodation to Trieste or Corfu from whence it is easy to proceed within the Islands, you are pleased to say it—who does all alas we do nothing Your Brother will no doubt tell you he has a good Judge-

ment but I wish he had fewer correspondants in my fleet They repeat his opinions never fair and may be inconvenient.

A Dispatch of Menous hath fallen into my hands not one word true when A frenchman is mentioned, I send a Coppy to Vienna perhaps you may open it and Publish the parts Material.—I am with affectionate, &c.

(Signed) KEITH.

June 28th.

Our Army got on the 23^{d} within 2 Miles of Cairo and as I predicted to you a trumpet came out, and I am told they are treating 29th, I hear a negotiation is going on you perhaps think this odd but I really never hear on any other line but that of the turks, I write to Vienna if you are there and Minto gone open the publick letters

30th I understand the negotiation is compleated this may be considered a co-operation in Ireland to all by one's self.

From Lord KEITH *to the* Hon A. PAGET.

ABOUKIR BAY, *July* 20, 1801.

MY DEAR PAGET,—I have this instant your letter Naples June 24th the outrage complained of has never reached me, but that offered His Majesty has some time ago when the Minorca was attacked by your Vessels under Neapolitan Colours, and likewise Frigates under the Same flag conveying Provision to Trieste but which no sooner past the British Ships but they steered for Ancona and it is said they were actually managed by french Commissarys My order was dictated by your Suggestion now before me and can in no way be construed to any part of His Sicilian Majesties Dominions the Ports occupied by the Enemy exepted and when my intercepted letters tells me there is an Admiral fitting out Vessels to transport 20,000 men either into Egypt or the Morea God knows I am as much inclined to Naples as Man can be but I can not without orders permit the Neapolitans to carry on War against the King without interveening, If my friend Septimo was on a Legal Mission why in Gods name did he avoid a Nation who

would have protected him or above all run his Ship on shore You know as well as I do they are Needy and Greedy and it will be found that the Cargoe was french or that Money was given for the protection of the flag Your Brother * is an Hostage to the french and on his March to embark † we have more men here than we can use which is all I can say except that I ever am Faithfully yours (Signed) KEITH.

Write me by Trieste I send Vessels there sometimes to your Court to which I have a Warm heart as well that of Naples.

From H.R.H. *the* PRINCE OF WALES *to the* Hon. A. PAGET.

I am overjoyed, my dearest Arthur, at your arrival & would have flown up to Town in order to have wellcomed you, had I not had my House full of people that I could not leave; however if you are not able to come to me in your way back from Weymouth, I will meet you in Town at any rate after the eighteenth of this month, my reason for mentioning this is that you may arrange your plans accordingly & I really think it would be too cruel a circumstance by a very dear & mutual friend of us both, were I to take up any part of your time especially if your stay is to be a short one, when by my coming to Town she will not be deprived of your Society. Pray say everything that is most affectionate to Her, & how truly I participate in her happiness, & with what pleasure I look forward to the passing a few days in your society, for I have miss'd you most cruelly, & pray tell her also that if I do come on purpose which I shall do to see you, I expect that she will give me a dinner or two with you whilst I stay in Town, as I shall leave my Servants &

* Edward, then Colonel Commanding 28th Regiment.—A. P.

† A later letter from Mr. Paget to the Earl of Uxbridge, Sept. 14, says: "Lord Keith informs me that Edward is one of the Hostages to the French for the execution of the Capitulation of Cairo. By that Capitulation you will I think find that the Hostages are to be released as soon as the French arrive in their own Ports. The embarkation of the French troops in Egypt was to have been completed by the 8th of August. Now whether Edward will proceed from France to England, or return to join his Regiment in Egypt, is what I cannot give an opinion upon—but I sincerely hope that you may have the pleasure of enjoying a little time at least in England."

family behind me. Your Letter I did not receive till late last Night, as I went early yesterday morning over to the Duke of Norfolk's at Arundel & did not return till past twelve o'clock, or I should have answered it by return of post. Pray say when you go to Weymouth & when you intend to return.—Ever most affectionately yours, G.

BRIGHTON, *August 6th*, 1801.

From H.R.H. *the* PRINCE OF WALES *to the* Hon. ARTHUR PAGET.

MY DEAREST ARTHUR,—I this morning receiv'd your kind Letter by which I am most extremely concern'd at finding that your departure is likely to be so abrupt, and that I shall be disappointed at passing so much time in your society as I had promised myself the pleasure of doing. It was my intention to have been in Town early on Tuesday morning, but as your departure is to be at so early a moment I will be in Town on Monday in order to devote as much time my dearest Friend to you as I can during the rest of your short stay here. The joy I shall experience at seeing & embracing you again my dearest Arthur, is really quite beyond what I can express, or you can form to yourself any idea of, I am always the same, & I do assure you that nothing ever *can* or *will* alter me towards you at any time. I beg my best and kindest remembrances to the dear dear Duchess, and am ever dearest Arthur your most affectionate

GEORGE.

BRIGHTON, *August 21st*, 1801.

P.S.—If Charles & Bob are with you, remember me kindly to them.

END OF VOL. I

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